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'Unchain us'
A group of angry Tibetan women shout anti-China slogans at a demonstration in New Delhi yesterday. About 500 Tibetans protest to mark 31st anniversary of a Tibetan uprising against Chinese rule. (Reuters wirephoto) (See Page 2)

Militants free Indian officers Kashmir action plan

By Thomas Abraham
Arab Times correspondent

NEW DELHI, March 10: India will soon have a separate minister at the centre to deal exclusively with the affairs of the sensitive border state of Jammu and Kashmir as the government prepared to launch an action plan to tackle the problems caused by militants demanding for an independent state.

The decision to appoint such a minister was taken at an all-party meeting convened by Prime Minister V.P. Singh today.

Official sources said the minister would be assisted by an advisory council consisting of members drawn from various parties.

While the minister has not yet been named, there has been media speculation that the job could go to Railway Minister George Fernandes, who is said to have already established some important contacts in the state during the past few days.

The new minister and the advisory council will have the primary job of finding means to resume the political process in the state and restore normalcy.

The only other such precedent in India was set back in 1971 when prime minister Indira Gandhi appointed Sardar Baldev Singh to look after the affairs of West Bengal when that state was plagued by the growing militancy of Naxalites.

Chances of an early resumption of the political process in the state had brightened considerably after the visit of an all-party delegation to Srinagar Thursday for a first-hand assessment of the situation.

The delegation, led by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal and comprising leaders of all important parties, including Congress president Rajiv Gandhi, was briefed in Srinagar by Governor Jagmohan. The gravity of the situation can be gauged by the fact that the team had to remain confined to its hotel, with the authorities advising them against visiting the city and meeting people.

The Srinagar visit followed an all-party meeting at the prime minister's residence Wednesday to evolve a national consensus on what is widely seen as one of the most serious problems facing independent India.

A joint statement issued after the meeting said Pakistan's attempts to internationalise the Kashmir issue from time to time, the rise of fundamentalist and secessionist elements in the valley and their anti-national stance had vitiated the situation in the state.

The prime minister reiterated at the meeting that the special status of the state under article 370 of the constitution would be preserved and protected in letter and spirit.

Meanwhile, in Srinagar, five police intelligence officers, abducted at gunpoint the day before by Kashmiri Muslim separatists, were freed before dawn today, Jagmohan said.

The governor said the five men were released unharmed after government loudspeakers blared all-night warnings that "strong action" would be taken if the kidnappers would export their products.

Officials from six Gulf Arab oil producers were meeting in Bahrain today to co-ordinate a strategy to increase their petrochemical market share and explore the possibility of forming a joint shipping company to export their products.

The two-day conference, attended by around 200 delegates from the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) countries, will also discuss challenges from the European Economic Community, which imposes stiff import tariffs on key petrochemical products.

Bahrain's Industry Minister Youssef Shirawi said in an opening address the GCC could not compete with other economic blocs unless it managed to unify its own customs tariffs.

"Without unified customs duties used in your negotiations, the world will neither respect you nor other Gulf industries," he said.

The European Economic Community, which takes about a third of GCC petrochemical exports, has imposed tariffs of up to 13.5 per cent on some products to protect its local industries.

Gulf officials are trying to persuade the community, its main trading partner, to lift the barriers. But the Europeans say the GCC must unify its customs policies before a free trade pact can be negotiated.

Community foreign ministers last December agreed a mandate for a free trade pact that includes a lengthy transition period before quotas and duties are scrapped.

The conference is expected to discuss transport, banking and insurance aspects of the industry. Executives also want investment in secondary or downstream chemicals — which use primary chemicals like

Iraq sentences journalist to death

LONDON, March 10, (AP): A London-based journalist has been sentenced to death in Iraq on spying charges and a British nurse has been jailed for 15 years for allegedly helping him, the Foreign Office said today.

An Iraqi who was in contact with journalist Farzad Bazoft in Baghdad was given a 10 year sentence for communicating government secrets to a foreigner, it said.

There was no indication when the execution would be carried out.

Bazoft, a 31-year-old stateless Iranian exile who travels with British documents and works for London's weekly Observer newspaper, was arrested in September while investigating reports of an explosion at an Iraqi military plant. Nurse Daphne Parish, 52, was accused of helping him by driving

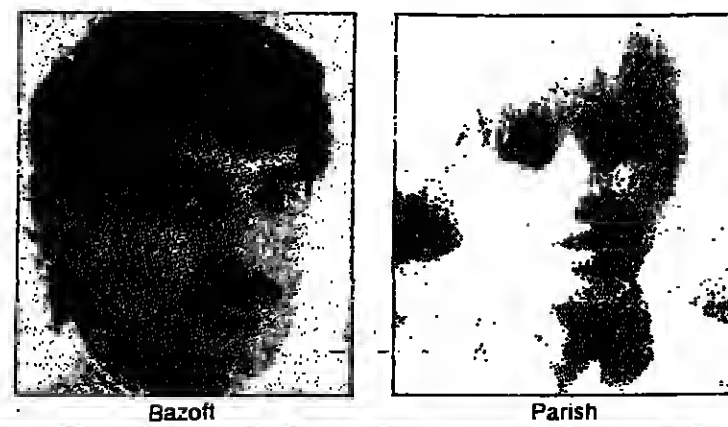
him to the plant.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, "horrified by the severity of the sentence" against Bazoft, will appeal to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein for clemency on humanitarian grounds, said a spokesman who by euston was not identified.

Junior Foreign Office Minister William Waldegrave said the government was concentrating on "the immediate next few hours" to get the death sentence lifted.

"We rule out nothing," he said, adding the government was considering sending a top-level emissary to Baghdad. Asked at a news conference if Foreign Secretary Sir Douglas Hurd might go, Waldegrave said every possibility was being considered.

The sentences, if carried out, "are bound to have a



Bazoft Parish

Kuwait plans mega-plant

\$2b petrochemical project discussed

KUWAIT, March 10, (Reuters): Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa met Kuwait's top planners today to seek approval for a \$2 billion petrochemical project.

Officials had anticipated "a long session" but the supreme planning council, headed by HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah, broke up after an hour and decided to take another look at the plans next week.

Officials said Sheikh Ali later met privately with members of the council, which includes the finance and planning ministers and the Central Bank governor.

"The meeting started with a presentation by Sheikh Ali on the project and decided to meet again next week," an official told Reuters.

Council endorsement is crucial for the eight-plant project, which is expected to be open for international bidding.

The official Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) quoted council secretary general Fouad Mulla Hussein as saying the Crown Prince "stressed the importance and vitality of the project" during the meeting.

Israelis kill two Arabs in violence

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 10, (Reuters): Israeli police shot dead two Palestinians in East Jerusalem today in protests stoked by Arab anger at plans to settle Jewish immigrants among them.

Police said fighting started in Shuafat Palestinian refugee camp last night as demonstrators marked the start of the 28th month of the Palestinian uprising against Israeli rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Palestinians identified the dead as Mahmoud Abu Khalifeh, 20, and Sufian Abu Mayyaleh, 32, a father of 12. At least eight Palestinians were wounded, one of them a 14-year-old boy in critical condition.

Arab shops across the city closed in mourning as angry residents fought police with stones and bottles and overturned an Israeli car outside the ancient walls of the old city.

Police, who stopped journalists entering the refugee camp, drove along the narrow dirt streets calling on the 7,000 residents to stay inside their homes.

"Anybody who does not obey will be shot," they shouted through loudspeakers.

Palestinians said border police shot Khalifeh during stone-throwing clashes early today but

Abu Mayyaleh was a bystander caught in fighting that erupted following the funeral.

Police said they would investigate the deaths, which took the toll of Palestinians killed by Israelis during the revolt to at least 629.

Another 191 Arabs have been killed by Palestinians, mostly as suspected collaborators, and 44 Jews have died.

Shuafat is near the site where Israel was to start building 3,000 new Jewish homes today in defiance of US objections to settling more Jewish immigrants in Arab East Jerusalem.

US President George Bush last weekend publicly opposed any increase in Jewish settlement in Arab East Jerusalem, annexed by Israel after it was captured from Jordan in the 1967 Middle East war.

Some 500 Arab and Israeli women calling for establishment of a Palestinian state demonstrated this afternoon along the old no-man's land that separated Israeli and Arab sides of Jerusalem before 1967.

Leftist Israeli politicians appealed at the gathering for the coalition government to accept US proposals for peace talks with Palestinians when the cabinet meets tomorrow.



Looking at death
This two-year-old girl waits to die in the Victor Babes Hospital in Bucharest. The weeping girl is confirmed to have Aids. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ransom for freedom deal is under way

Bush... whacked

BEIRUT, March 10, (Agencies): Unofficial American negotiators have had direct contacts with the captors of 18 Westerners believed held in Lebanon and are working on a deal to pay ransom for the hostages' releases, the leading Lebanese magazine Ash Shiraa has said.

Ash Shiraa, which has good contacts among Islamic fundamentalists and was the magazine that first broke the story of the US Iran-Contra arms-for-hostages scandal, said Anglican church envoy Terry Waite may be the first hostage freed in the proposed deal.

The deal would involve all 18 Western hostages believed held by pro-Iranian Shiite extremists in Lebanon, including eight Americans, the magazine said.

"US figures with no official capacity have been engaged in direct contacts with the captors, focusing on a proposed deal to pay some money in exchange for releasing hostages," Ash Shiraa said.

In Washington, Deputy White House Press Secretary Roman Popadiuk said he was unaware of any such dealings, but again noted, "there are plenty of people out there talking," trying to win release of the hostages.

The newspaper report came one day after the White House acknowledged President Bush had been the target of a hoax over the hostage issue. Bush, hoping to win the freedom of the hostages, talked by telephone to a man claiming to be Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, but the call proved to be a hoax.

White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater said yesterday as a result of the telephone hoax, and concerns raised by it, the administration would no longer say whether there are contacts between the United States and Iran over the fate of the American hostages.

Ash Shiraa also said secret US-Iranian diplomatic contacts took place recently, but said no details were available.

Bush denied early this month that the US was participating in secret talks aimed at winning freedom for the hostages.

Rafsanjani said Wednesday the issue of the hostages "is going to be solved," but he set no timetable for the release of the captives and said Iran was not negotiating with the US on the release of the hostages.

Slain Filipino general given hero's burial

MANILA, March 10, (Reuters): A Philippine general was given a hero's burial today as soldiers continued to hunt down the rebellious governor they hold responsible for his death.

Brigadier-General Oscar Florendo, a popular officer who was killed last Sunday in a short-lived revolt by suspended governor Rodolfo Aguinaldo, was buried in the National Heroes Cemetery in the main army camp in Manila.

Thousands of mourners attended the ceremony for Florendo, a respected general credited with improving the image of a military widely seen as corrupt during the 20-year rule of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

A convoy of military vehicles escorted Florendo's body to the cemetery in Fort Bonifacio military camp. Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos represented President Corason Aquino at the burial rites.

Dozens of white balloons symbolising peace were released after the flag-draped casket was lowered into the ground.

Aguinaldo, the governor of northern Cagayan province, fled after government troops launched a counter-attack to end his occupation of the provincial capital of Tuguegarao.

Gorbachev needs rest: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev works too hard and should take a break for the sake of his country's citizens, former dissident historian Roy Medvedev said on Friday.

"Sometimes Gorbachev loses his temper, sometimes he 'do better not to speak' — he works too much and should think about having a rest because his health is important," Medvedev told reporters at a congress of the Italian Communist Party. (Reuters)

Avril resigns: Lt Gen. Prosper Avril, turned over power to another general on Saturday, the independent television station Tele-Haiti reported.

Thereport, which could not be immediately confirmed, said Avril handed power over to Gen. Herard Abraham, the Army chief of staff who is to govern for 48 hours until an interim government takes over within 72 hours. (AP) (See Page 8)

East Beirut clash: Rival Christian forces clashed in East Beirut for the second day on Saturday, violating the ceasefire in their month-long war.

Security sources said troops loyal to General Michel Aoun and Lebanese Forces (LF) militiamen exchanged machine-gun-fire and rocket-propelled grenades in the Sin El Fil neighbourhood.

Gunsman kill Turkish policeman: Assaultants armed with automatic weapons shot dead a policeman in central Istanbul on Saturday, then seized two hostages in an empty building and held off police with heavy gunfire, police said.

Women at work: Almost a million women are now their own bosses in the UK as a "revolution" sweeps British working life, it was reported in London on Saturday.



Hitting the ground
East German Communist Party chief Grego Gya (foreground) prepares to hit the ground after jumping from a small aircraft in Flindersdorf near East Berlin. He was aided in his descent by a professional parachutist

Weather

CLOUDY weather with moderate southeasterly wind may freshen at times with a chance of scattered rain. State of sea: slight to moderate.

High water: 12.00 pm
Low water: 7.00 am, 7.00 pm
Sunrise: 6.03 am
Sunset: 5.54 pm
Maximum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 36°C 97°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahaka: 25°C 77°F
Minimum temperature recorded:
Kuwait: 14°C 57°F
Ahmad: 16°C 61°F
Fahaka: 16°C 61°F
Maximum temperatures expected:
Kuwait: 25°C 77°F
Ahmad: 24°C 75°F
Fahaka: 24°C 75°F
Maximum humidity recorded:
Kuwait: 41 per cent
Ahmad: 45 per cent
Fahaka: 40 per cent

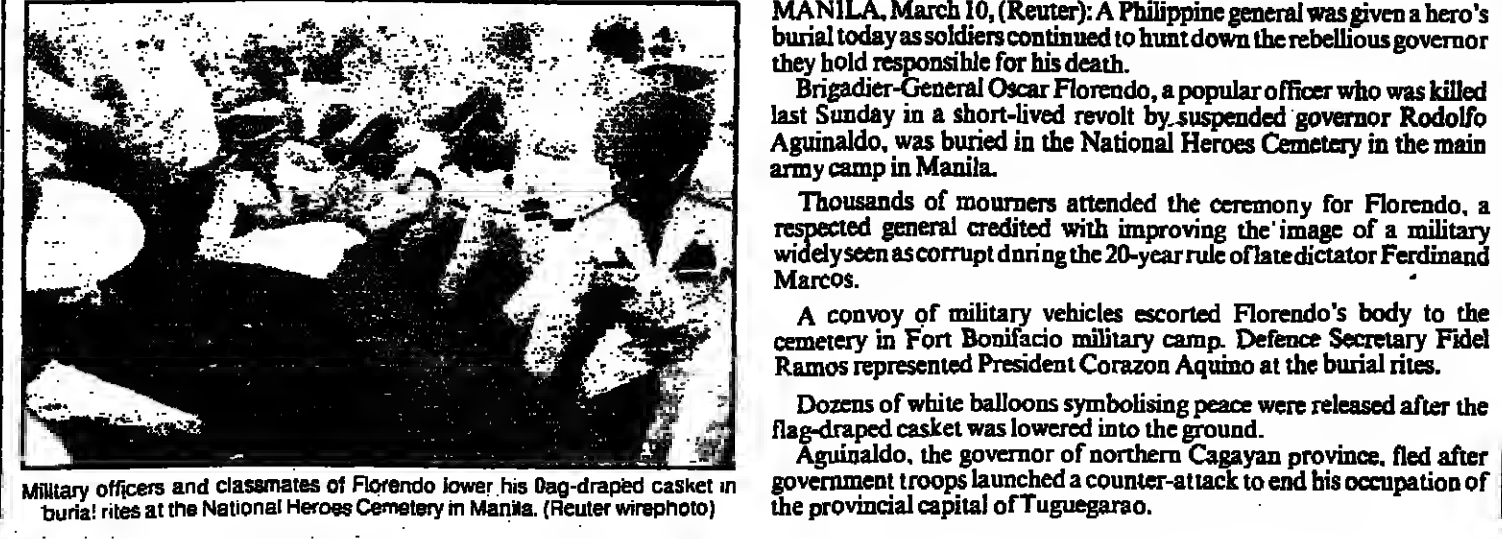
Death fall

AN Indian AC mechanic yesterday fell to his death from the 11th floor of the telecommunication centre under construction. The victim, identified as Morarji Jivaram, was working on the air-conditioning duct on the 11th floor. The police and doctors arrived on the scene immediately. No further details were available.

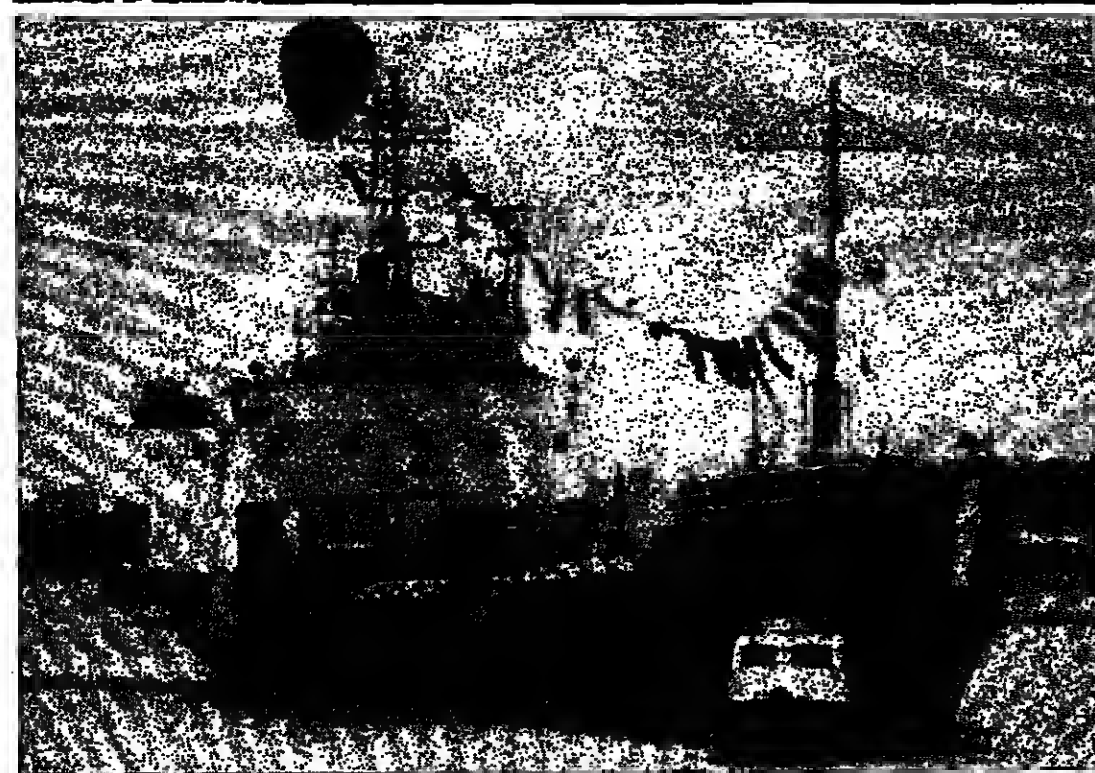
Nuclear test

YUCCA FLAT, Nevada, March 10, (UPI): A nuclear weapon detonated 1,500 feet (450m) beneath the Nevada desert today generated the force of a moderate earthquake that was felt by some observers on highrise gambling resorts 85 miles (135 km) away in Las Vegas.

Slain Filipino general given hero's burial



Military officers and classmates of Florendo lower his flag-draped casket in burial rites at the National Heroes Cemetery in Manila. (Reuters wirephoto)



'Goddess of Democracy'

The freedom ship 'Goddess of Democracy' enters the port of La Rochelle, south western France. French and foreign media, human rights campaigners and dissidents have given \$1.3 million to launch the ship which exiled dissidents plan to sail to China to transmit pirated broadcasts. (Reuters wirephoto)

Hun Sen supports Thai plan

BANGKOK, March 10, (UPI): Prime Minister Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed government in Cambodia supports a new Thai plan to close existing refugee camps and either send inmates back to Cambodia or put them in neutral, UN-controlled camps, Phnom Penh radio said today.

"The government of the state of Cambodia is ready to co-operate with the kingdom of Thailand and various international organisations in arranging repatriation of all Cambodian refugees," said a radio announcer reading the text of an interview with Hun Sen.

Hun Sen said the returning refugees "will enjoy the same rights as Cambodian citizens living inside the country — namely, the right to vote and to stand for election."

He said those with qualifications would be given appropriate jobs and farmers would be given land.

Hun Sen also supported Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonhavan's plans, announced last week to remove refugees from the control of the three resistance groups and placed in neutral camps.

The Cambodian leader said that for the security of the refugees they should be moved away from the border and from the armed resistance groups operating there.

150 hurt in Bangla poll clashes

DHAKA, March 10, (AP): At least 150 people were injured in two cities when rival political camps working toward next week's elections hurled rocks and bombs at one another, newspapers said today.

The clashes occurred yesterday in Khulna, a river port city 135 kilometres (85 miles) southwest of Dhaka, and in Jessore, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) northwest of Khulna.

The independent Bengali newspaper Khabar said about 100 people were injured in clashes between supporters of two candidates from President Hussain Muhammad Ershad's Jatiya Party.

The trouble started when the two groups tried to welcome Civil Aviation Minister Abdul Gaffar, who had come to Khulna to address a public rally, the newspaper said. Both groups claimed their candidate had the Jatiya Party's support.

The local council elections, which are historically the most violent in Bangladesh, are scheduled for March 14-25. They are non-partisan, but clashes usually erupt along party lines because local voters know the party affiliations of the technically independent candidates.

In Jessore, at least 50 people were injured in clashes between supporters of the Jatiya Party and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, according to another independent Bengali daily, Bangla Bani. The Nationalist Party, headed by Khaleida Zia, is one of the country's biggest opposition parties.

Last week, two people were shot to death in campaign violence in the country's northwestern Pabna district.

Reshuffle in China likely

Key party meeting begins

BEIJING, March 10, (Reuters): The Central Committee of China's ruling Communist Party was believed to be holding a key meeting to help cope with growing international isolation and tighten ideological control, diplomats said today.

They said a shake-up involving several cabinet posts was expected, though no officials above the level of vice-premier or minister were likely to be affected.

"We have seen evidence of lots of official cars moving around and some sort of senior meeting is being held," said a Western diplomat.

It was unclear if the Central Committee plenum had already begun or whether this was part of a preparatory meeting. But the full plenum was likely to be concluded by Tuesday or Wednesday so that Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin could leave for a scheduled visit to North Korea.

Since China's Central Committee last met in November, Beijing has seen its once staunch supporters in Eastern Europe succumb to demands for democratic change and share power with non-communists.

China has been alarmed at the reforms sweeping across Eastern Europe, particularly at a time when relations with the West are badly strained by its bloody

crackdown on a pro-democracy movement last June.

Normally, policy affecting foreign relations is left to the Central Committee's Politburo. But the procedural change reflected the depth of Beijing's problems, diplomats said.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has been blamed in internal party documents for the dramatic changes in Eastern Europe. But publicly, Beijing has insisted that the changes are solely an internal matter for the countries concerned and that it will not interfere.

Diplomats said official publications had refrained from commenting on events in Eastern Europe and this policy was likely to be maintained, especially before Premier Li Peng's planned visit to Moscow in April.

"I don't expect any decision criticising Gorbachev or not with Li Peng planning to visit Moscow," said an Eastern European diplomat.

Chinese officials said this week the plenum would start soon. It would deal with the issue of maintaining links with the nation's one billion people.

Foreign diplomats interpreted this as meaning Beijing would maintain tight ideological controls to prevent any serious challenge to its authority.

Iraq sentences Bazoff to death

(Continued from Page 1)

far-reaching effect on bilateral relations between the two countries," he added.

Bazoff and Parish went on trial Thursday, charged with committing hostile acts against Iraq. The Iraqi, identified only as Rahim, was tried with them.

The revolutionary court proceedings, which were not open to the public, adjourned after five hours.

The Foreign Office said a British diplomat was in court today to hear the sentences passed and immediately telephoned the outcome to London.

Under Iraqi law, no appeal is allowed.

"We utterly deplore these harsh and excessive sentences," a Foreign Office statement said.

Iraq's Ambassador to Britain, Dr Azmi Shafiq Al Salhi, was being summoned to the Foreign Office to be told of the government's "utter dismay" and an appeal for clemency was being made to Saddam, the Foreign Office said.

"No evidence was produced at the trial which would justify sentences of this severity," the Foreign Office said. "They come from a regime which is trying to show a more liberal face to the world."

In November, Bazoff said on Iraqi state television that he had been spying for Israel. Observer Editor Donald Treford said the paper was certain that Bazoff was not spying for anyone and had made the so-called confession under duress.

In a statement today, Treford said Bazoff had said at his trial that the TV confession was made under duress, but it had been admitted as evidence nonetheless.

"The sentences are barbaric and unjust," Treford said. "Our first objective is to have the death sentence lifted prior to their release and return to Britain."

Parish, a senior nursing administrator for the Irish-run, Ibn Al Bitar Hospital in Baghdad, did not appear in the broadcast.

The explosion at a military complex was reported in London to have killed up to 700 people, but the Iraqis later said 19 people were killed in a fuel depot blast.

Treford said Bazoff had sought official permission to visit the Al Iskandaria military complex south of Baghdad, had told the paper's foreign desk of his movements, and had talked openly about the visit to press colleagues on his return to Baghdad.

Treford called on Britain to withdraw its ambassador from Baghdad and cancel offers of export credits to Iraq. He urged international press and human rights groups to campaign for justice for Bazoff and Parish and urged all British news organisations to boycott Iraq until the safety of journalists is guaranteed.

Kashmir action plan

(Continued from Page 1)

were not released. The State Department warned US citizens not to travel to violence-ravaged parts of India and to avoid certain Indian Airlines flights.

In a statement, the State Department said, "unrest and violence continue in Jammu and Kashmir," the sites of massive pro-independence uprisings by Muslim residents in recent months.

The State Department said travel to Srinagar, Kashmir valley and surrounding areas should be delayed indefinitely.

In Punjab, US citizens were warned to exercise "special caution" and avoid bus or train travel as the State Department reports sporadic incidents of political and criminal violence.

Kuwait plans

(Continued from Page 1)

ethylene and methanol as raw material — to increase competitiveness.

In an attempt to reduce dependence on oil, Gulf Arab states have pumped billions of dollars into petrochemical plants in the past decade, making use of abundant and cheap gas supplies.

Industry sources say Gulf countries now have an annual petrochemical and fertilizer capacity of over eleven million tonnes.

Gulf officials are optimistic rising world demand can enable them to boost petrochemical output.

Despite its advantage from cheap gas, the export-oriented Gulf industries are vulnerable to world price and demand fluctuations. The domestic market is too small to absorb output.

But industry sources say rising costs in the West and environmental concerns will give them a long-term advantage.

Bangkok sinking: experts

BANGKOK, March 10, (Reuters): Bangkok has sunk 160 cm (62 inches) in the past 30 years and will sink further because of haphazard building on the crowd capital's outskirts, Thai experts said.

A study, reported in the Bangkok Post newspaper today, by a team of engineers said the city was sinking because over a million cubic metres of soil water was being extracted daily leading to soil compression.

"For 15 metres (50 feet) down there is nothing but mud," team leader Professor Prinya Nutakaya said. "We must add more water to stop the soil compressing further."

Bangkok's population has tripled in the past 30 years to nearly eight million people. Its water demand has outstripped surface water supplies, the study by the Asian Institute of Technology said.

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Hindus attack police: 4 killed

AMRITSAR, India, March 10, (Reuters): At least four people were killed today when police fired on an angry Hindu crowd protesting against Sikh militant violence in the Indian border state of Punjab.

Several people were injured, police said, when the crowd besieged a police station in Abohar denouncing a bomb and gunfire assault by Sikh extremists that killed 31 people in the town marketplace last Wednesday.

Police said they opened fire on today's crowd, led by Hindu political activists, after at least 12 policemen were injured in stone-throwing. Abohar is a Hindu-majority enclave in Punjab, where Sikh militants demand a separate homeland.

At least 450 people have been killed so far this year in the Sikh militants' campaign for Khalistan or "land of the pure."

They exploded two bombs in Abohar on Wednesday, then drove up to the marketplace in a jeep and fired on evening shoppers.

The town went on general strike on Thursday in protest against the killings.

Police said they first tried to quell today's protest using clubs but had to open fire on defence.

Abohar is in Punjab's southwest corner, about 235 km (145 miles) southwest of the Sikh holy city of Amritsar.

Sikhs, who number less than two per cent of India's 810 million people, form a slim majority in the prosperous farming state of Punjab.

Indonesia plans to execute coup men

Human rights bodies protest

JAKARTA, March 10, (Agencies): Human rights organisations protested today against the government's plans to execute by firing squad six prisoners convicted of taking part in a communist coup attempt 25 years ago.

The chief of the armed forces rejected the criticism as interference in Indonesia's domestic affairs. Lawyer Johannes C. Princen, director of the institute for the defence of human rights, said the six prisoners were taken from their cells in Jakarta's Cipinang prison on March 5. He said their families were notified of the planned executions.

Princen said in an interview there was speculation that the justice minister and attorney general were not available or would not sign the execution order. The executions were believed to be planned for Saturday or Sunday, Princen said.

"This is a matter for the attorney general," Justice Minister Ismail Saleh told reporters today at the installation of a new air force chief of staff. At the same ceremony, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas and State Secretary Mudianto, avoided questions by reporters.

Armed forces chief of staff Gen. Try Sutrisno said it was an internal matter involving Indonesia's sovereignty and of no concern to outsiders. He said he would announce the executions — if and when they were carried out.

"Although the verdict was taken a long time ago, implementation of the executions has to wait for the right time," he said.

In addition to Princen's organisation, protests were lodged by the 12-nation European Community, the London-based Amnesty International and the Netherlands government.

If the executions are carried out, said Amnesty International, they would bring to 32 the number of people killed by firing squad since 1965 in Indonesia, compared to four in the previous 10 years. Four former palace guards were executed in mid-February for their part in the abortive coup against the late president Sukarno.

Premier Ruud Lubbers yesterday offered political asylum in the Netherlands for the six prisoners. The Netherlands from a 27-million guilder (\$12.5 million) aid package to its former colony after the February elections, but a 192-million guilder (\$90 million) assistance programme is being continued.

Indonesia, once the Dutch East Indies, gained independence in 1949 after four years of fighting.

Those facing execution are: ● Rusland Widjajasastra, 70, arrested on July 14, 1968 and charged with subversion and criminal plotting against the state for his part in the uprising. He was sentenced to death on July 15, 1974 by a special military court.

● Sukarno, 60, arrested on July 21, 1968 and sentenced to death on March 11, 1971.

● Iskandar Subekti, 67, arrested on July 31, 1968 and given the death penalty on Dec 22, 1972.

● Asep Suryaman, 62, arrested on Sept 28, 1971 and charged with trying to overthrow the government.

● I. Bungkus, 61, arrested on Oct 8, 1965 while serving as an army sergeant and sentenced on July 30, 1971 to be shot.

● Marsudi, 53, a sergeant major in the air force at the time of the coup. The date of his arrest is not known but he was sentenced to death on Oct 9, 1968.

In a letter to President Suharto dated Friday, Princen said foreign sources reported the death sentences already had been carried out. If not, he appealed against the executions on humanitarian grounds.

"It is imperative, I believe, for China to learn a lesson from the Soviet Union and in particular, to follow the example set by President Gorbachev, who is seeking to solve similar problems through dialogue and compromise," he said.

"The Chinese leadership must look at the Tibetan issue with new eyes and fresh minds. Before it is too late, they must listen to the voice of reason, non-violence and moderation, which is spoken by the Tibetan people," he said.

After the ceremony in which the Tibetan flag was raised, thousands of Tibetans and hundreds of foreigners who had travelled here for the anniversary staged an 8-kilometre-long protest march through this town in the Himalayan foothills of northern India.

In New Delhi, about 1,000 Tibetans burned a Chinese flag and chanted their demands for freedom at India Gate, a soaring stone arch commemorating Indians who died in military service for their colonial British rulers.

Tibet, a rugged and remote enclave high in the Himalayas, was invaded by Chinese troops in 1950. China maintains Tibet has traditionally been part of China, but the Dalai Lama and his followers say Tibet has been independent for centuries.

The Dalai Lama, revered as a god-king by his followers, fled the Tibetan capital of Lhasa on March 17, 1959, a week after the start of the revolt against China. He made his way across the snow-covered Himalayan mountains to India and eventually to Dharamsala, which now serves as the seat of his government-in-exile.

"Being political refugees, we must work towards political freedom," he told the crowd gathered outside the Buddhist Thichchen Choling temple. "The Tibetans in Tibet have a greater responsibility for the future of Tibet, especially the youngsters and even those Tibetan cadres working for the Chinese."

The Dalai Lama yesterday cautioned China "before it is too late" to follow the Soviet Union's lead and allow greater freedom in the Himalayan region.

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late 30s, said staying behind in the provincial capital after the Indian withdrawal was not an option.

"I'm not a fool. I don't want to be killed," he said.

He declined to say where he and his family might go in exile, though many people expect him to go to India, whose troops supervised provincial elections that brought him to power.

Foreign Affairs Minister Ranjan Wijeratne told Parliament, "Perumal is like a crab in a pot. When the water boils the crab cannot survive."

Perumal is not optimistic about Colombo granting more autonomy to the northeast and said that fighting could eventually flare up again between the Sri Lankan army and the Tigers after the Indian withdrawal.

He said his departure would hurt chances for a negotiated settlement of the Tamil conflict.

"I don't think there will be another person who can be so patient with the Sri Lankan government," he said.

● The Sri Lankan police have been given the authority to search any hotel, guesthouse and private houses for firearms, Wijeratne, told a press conference.

Wijeratne said though the armed forces are not permitted to enter such places and conduct searches, the police, who are on a 24-hour duty could do so.

Lanka's rebel CM will go into 'exile'

TRINCOMALEE, March 10, (Reuters): The Tamil who has served as chief minister of Sri Lanka's strife-torn northeast province under the protection of the Indian army says he will go into exile or fight as a guerrilla after his Indian backers leave this month.

Varatharaja Perumal resigned on March 1, and renamed the provincial council as a Tamil National Assembly, but many saw the move as the last political acts of a desperate man who had opposed the most powerful Tamil separatist group.

With the last Indians expected to leave the northeast by the end of March and with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam strengthening their grip on the region, the future looks bleak for Perumal and his group, the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF).

"I have two options: I can go to the jungle, where I would need military training to live as a guerrilla or I can go overseas to continue working for our cause," he said in an interview late yesterday.

Speaking at his heavily guarded home in the port of Trincomalee, he vowed to continue struggling to win more autonomy for the northeast, where most of Sri Lanka's 2.5 million Tamils live. The central government in Colombo is dominated by the Sinhalese majority.

Perumal, a stocky man in his

Rice cooked in pipes kills eight Thais

SINGAPORE, March 10, (AP): Eight Thai workers here have died of heart failure this year after eating glutinous rice cooked in pipes made of polyvinyl chloride, it was reported today.

The Straits Times quoted Thai embassy sources as saying that following the deaths, tests were performed on polyvinyl chloride pipes — commonly used at construction sites as substitutes for cooking pots.

The tests performed by the Working Safety Institute in Bangkok showed that when heated to between 100 and 120 degrees Celsius, (212 and 248 Fahrenheit) the pipes gave off deadly hydrogen chloride.

Senior forensic pathologist Chao Tze Cheong told the newspaper that autopsies on the Thais showed they had died of cardiac respiratory failure. He said further tests were necessary to establish a link between the cooking of rice in the pipes and the death of the workers.

The Thai Embassy has handed out leaflets to construction workers to warn Thai workers of the danger.

The newspaper quoted police sources as saying seven workers died in January and another in the first week of February.

Third general strike called

Nepal reformists to keep up pressure

KATHMANDU, March 10, (UPI): Organisers of Nepal's three-week-old movement pressing for greater democracy vowed to continue their campaign with a third general strike next week as reports of further unrest reached the capital today.

Government and independent reports said police and demonstrators clashed in the village of Duhavi on Thursday when about 30 demonstrators took part in a torchlight procession.

Official reports said five people were wounded when police with batons charged the demonstrators, but independent reports said at least 18 people were injured, including Hari Lamsal, the President of the Nepal Paramedical Association.

On Friday, demonstrators burnt offices in many places of the Himalayan kingdom, including the capital, demanding the

dismantling of the 29-year-old system introduced in December 1960 after an 18-month experiment with a British parliamentary style of government.

Organisers of the pro-democracy movement, which has been concentrated mainly in the east and central districts and the urban areas, called for a third general strike on Wednesday to press their demands.

Students are in the forefront of the movement, but doctors, lawyers, teachers and other professionals have joined by protesting that they have become victims of police brutality and human rights abuses.

The government says the movement was taken over by communists from the moderate opposition group Nepal Congress, but the group denied the

claim and accused the government of violence during the first three days of the movement when at least 13 people were killed.

Although they differ widely on national and international issues, the Nepali Congress and the factionalised Communist Party wings began a movement Feb 18 on a common platform of restoring multi-party democracy in Nepal.

Most of the senior Congress and communist leadership are behind bars, but the movement is now being conducted by lower-ranking leaders from their hideouts.

In an effort to stifle the opposition press, the government has reportedly been seizing copies from the streets and newspapers have said at least 20 journalists have been arrested. The government denies the reports.

Tibetans protest Chinese control

DHARAMSALA, March 10, (Agencies): The Dalai Lama, addressing more than 10,000 Tibetan exiles on the 31st anniversary of a failed uprising against Chinese rule, said today that Tibetans must continue the quest for freedom.

"The positive changes that took place in eastern Europe are a clear indication that truth and desire for peace cannot remain suppressed," said the Tibetan temporal and spiritual leader, who won the 1989 Nobel peace prize.

The Dalai Lama, revered as a god-king by his followers, fled the Tibetan capital of Lhasa on March 17, 1959, a week after the start of the revolt against China. He made his way across the snow-covered Himalayan mountains to India and eventually to Dharamsala, which now serves as the seat of his government-in-exile.

"Being political refugees, we must work towards political freedom," he told the crowd gathered outside the Buddhist Thichchen Choling temple. "The Tibetans in Tibet have a greater responsibility for the future of Tibet, especially the youngsters and even those Tibetan cadres working for the Chinese."

The Dalai Lama yesterday cautioned China "before it is too late" to follow the Soviet Union's lead and allow greater freedom in the Himalayan region.

"It is imperative, I believe, for China to learn a lesson from the Soviet Union and in particular, to follow the example set by President Gorbachev, who is seeking to solve similar problems through dialogue and compromise," he said.

"The Chinese leadership must look at the Tibetan issue with new eyes and fresh minds. Before it is too late, they must listen to the voice of reason, non-violence and moderation, which is spoken by the Tibetan people," he said.

After the ceremony in which the Tibetan flag was raised, thousands of Tibetans and hundreds of foreigners who had travelled here for the anniversary staged an 8-kilometre-long protest march through this town in the Himalayan foothills of northern India.

In New Delhi, about 1,000 Tibetans burned a Chinese flag and chanted their demands for freedom at India Gate, a soaring stone arch commemorating Indians who died in military service for their colonial British rulers.

Tibet, a rugged and remote enclave high in the Himalayas, was invaded by Chinese troops in 1950. China maintains Tibet has traditionally been part of China, but the Dalai Lama and his followers say Tibet has been independent for centuries.

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Representatives of informal left organisations gather in Gorki Park on the eve of the USSR Communist Party plenary meeting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parliament certain to elect

Gorby faces opposition

MOSCOW, March 10, (Reuters): Mikhail Gorbachev's bid to become a Western-style president faces an assault from opposition forces, concerned that a stronger Soviet presidency will have too much power.

Parliament is virtually certain next week to elect Gorbachev as state president with unprecedented constitutional authority, five years after he took power as Kremlin leader.

So far, leaders have approved the first in a series of landmark reforms that include the ruling Communist Party relinquishing its decades-long monopoly on power.

Gorbachev and his backers say the Soviet Union needs the new executive post to push through his social and political reforms in the face of growing ethnic and economic crises.

But a loose coalition of radical

parliamentarians and leaders of the outlying non-Russian republics has begun to take shape ahead of Monday's opening of the Congress of People's Deputies.

Both groups are united by fears that the revamped presidency could quash moves toward real democracy and expanded regional autonomy — and even independence.

In Moscow, the radical inter-regional group of deputies to the Parliament held a plenary session today to map out their challenge ahead of the congress.

Delegates to the congress from the Ukraine and Georgia have voiced alarm over the presidential law's lack of protection for the constituent republics.

And the newly-elected Lithuanian Parliament, firmly controlled by the Sajudis mass movement, is racing to re-establish

the republic's pre-war independence, at the weekend, before the presidential law is formally enacted.

Among provisions of the bill, approved on Feb 27 by the inner Parliament and certain to be ratified by the congress ahead of Gorbachev's selection, is the president's right to rule by decree.

Galina Starovoitova, an inter-regional member, told Moscow television the group would probably nominate its own candidate to run against Gorbachev, despite slim odds of success.

She said the group's candidate, if successful, would immediately step down and throw the post open to nationwide, direct elections. Critics have charged the election by deputies rather than by the people violates Gorbachev's own calls for greater "democratisation" of Soviet life.

NEW YORK, March 10, (Reuters): With death approaching, former Soviet President Andrei Gromyko tried to come to grips with communism's cruel mystery — how did Joseph Stalin murder millions of innocent people and turn his country into an iron dictatorship.

The agonising conclusion by a man many considered to be a faithful follower and implementer of Stalin's and the Soviet line was that "not even the executioners of slaves in ancient Rome behaved like this."

But he is, ultimately, at a loss to explain why so many people blindly followed Stalin, the Soviet communist leader from 1922 to 1953, although he says terror,

ceosorship and toadyism were major factors.

Gromyko's last thoughts on a subject historians still debate are in a 30-page addition to his memoirs written for the US edition, published by Doubleday this week.

The former president and longtime foreign minister says in the new chapter: "The worst features of Nietzsche's philosophy of the superman seem humane in comparison with the philosophy of Stalinism." He also asks: "Why was he not stopped?"

Gromyko, who died in July 1989 shortly after finishing the new chapter, made brief

critical comments about the dictator when he published his memoirs in the Soviet Union in 1988.

In the original version, he credited Stalin with holding the Communist Party together after founder V.I. Lenin's death and leading the country through a devastating war, but added: "The Soviet nation feels justified anger" over Stalin's repression and his "snake-like" stifling of his victims.

However, he did not deal in detail with the question of how Stalin managed to crush both friend and foe and then die peacefully in his bed, with, as he says, former security chief Lavrenty Beria kiss-

ing the dictator's hands when Stalin had a brief moment of lucidity before dying.

Haywood Isham, who edited the memoirs for Doubleday, said Gromyko was asked to elaborate on many points in the original book for the English-language edition and the chapter came from that request. It was written too late to be included in the British edition of the book, Isham added.

Isham said editors never expected the account to be so graphic. "Here this patriotic Marxist-Leninist, this dogged defender of Soviet interests tries to come to grips with Stalin and the terrible cruelties he inflicted."

Poll tax riots rage

Question mark on Iron Lady's survival

LONDON, March 10, (Reuters): Protests against a new tax championed by Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have erupted into successive nights of rioting on London's streets and intensified the pressure against Britain's beleaguered leader.

Riot police battled stone-throwing protesters in London on Thursday and Friday nights at the climax of a week when thousands of Britons up and down the country took to the streets in angry demonstrations against Thatcher's "poll tax."

Some political commentators question whether Thatcher, who has

The authoritative Economist magazine said suggestions that Thatcher may be out of power by the autumn "must now be taken seriously."

The controversial tax, to be introduced in England and Wales on April 1, will replace local property taxes with a personal charge on all adults. Many households — already feeling the pinch from high interest rates on home loans — face sharply higher bills. About 20 million people, including tenants and young adults living at home, will be paying towards local services for the first time.

Critics say the new system favours the rich, penalises the poor and takes no account of people's ability to pay. The government says it will make local authorities more accountable to their voters, and blames free-spending Labour-led councils for the high tax charges in some areas.

Meanwhile Labour, though enjoying the government's discomfort, faces problems of its own as protests outside Britain's town halls spill over into violence.

Conservative politicians and the largely pro-government press have blamed the rioting in London on militant extremists on the fringes of the Labour movement. Labour leader Neil Kinnock on Friday attacked "Toytown revolutionaries" whose tactics played into the government's hands by distracting attention from the poll tax issues and providing a convenient scapegoat.

A group of 28 Labour parliamentarians has embarrassed Kinnock by calling on people to stage a civil disobedience campaign by refusing to pay the tax.



Police and protesters clash in Britain, south London late yesterday as violence broke out during an anti poll tax demonstration. Paint and bricks were thrown and a police car tipped over. (Reuters wirephoto)

Protests look set to continue, as councils face a mid-March deadline to set the charge for their areas.

The popular revolt has sparked resignation rumours, street battles and a sharp fall in the pound sterling.

A defiant Thatcher said yesterday she enjoyed solid support in cabinet despite a report in the Independent newspaper that ministers had discussed a suggestion she might be asked to quit.

"I can find no nervousness in cabinet at all," the prime minister said in a television interview.

In the racially-tense London

neighbourhood of Brixton, protesters pelted police with bricks, bottles and paint and overturned a patrol car after burning her in effigy and setting fire to the British flag.

Police said at least 14 people were arrested and several officers injured in the second straight night of street violence in the capital. A protest in another London district on Thursday ended in the city's most serious rioting and looting in years.

"Those who have used the tactics of invasion and violence are playing straight into the hands of

the government," Kinnock said in a speech in Scotland appealing for a peaceful fight against the tax.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Thatcher's deputy prime minister, said of the violence: "It smacks of organised thuggery and political intimidation of a most disturbing kind."

Market rumours that Thatcher had resigned caused a sharp drop of two and half cents in the pound to 1.6165 dollars by the end of currency trading in London yesterday despite early Bank of England intervention.

Georgia rises against USSR too

MOSCOW, March 10, (AP): The parliament of Soviet Georgia yesterday demanded that the republic become independent, a local news agency reported.

Georgia joined Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia in taking parliamentary action condemning its inclusion in the Soviet Union while under occupation by Red Army troops. The Lithuanian parliament is expected to vote on a formal declaration of independence tomorrow.

The Georgian parliament, called the Supreme Soviet, also condemned Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal for creation of a strong presidency, according to a transcript of the resolution read to the Associated Press over the telephone by the Independent News Agency of Georgia.

The resolution said it was "unadmissible" to adopt the section of the proposed law calling for the president to be able to declare a state of emergency and martial law.

Lithuanian activists preparing today to declare their republic's independence said the powerful Sajudis Nationalist Movement wants its own man to be president instead of the current Communist Party leader.

With communists a minority in the new Lithuanian parliament, it wouldn't be right to re-elect President Algirdas Brazauskas, the republic's party chief, said Haroldas Subachius, an activist with the pro-independence group Sajudis, quoting the decision of a movement council.

Gorbachev and other Soviet officials have said the Kremlin might be willing to accept Lithuanian secession to avert a Lithuanian crisis, but the Georgian parliament had adopted a resolution saying the presidency proposal restricts sovereign rights of the republic.

Tass said nothing in its four-sentence report about the section of the resolution condemning the Red Army's occupation of Georgia in February 1921 and the subsequent treaties incorporating Georgia as part of the Soviet Union.

East Germans for demilitarised union

Mitterrand backs Polish stance

EAST BERLIN, March 10, (Agencies): Most East Germans want a future united Germany to be demilitarised or neutral and only a handful support West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl's plans to stay in Nato, according to the latest opinion poll.

The survey, published by the West German Infas polling institute nine days before East Germany's first free election, coincided with the start of talks between two German states on security arrangements for a unified Germany straddling the former iron curtain dividing Europe's power blocs.

France meanwhile gave full backing to Polish demands for a binding border treaty with the two Germans and said Warsaw should join talks on security aspects of unification along with the four victorious World War Two allies.

President Francois Mitterrand said a resolution passed by the Bonn Parliament on Thursday did not go far enough.

The Infas poll suggested 39 per cent of East Germans favoured a demilitarised Germany and 26 per cent a neutral state.

Only four per cent said they wanted a unified state to be a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, and nine per cent said Germany should be in both the Western alliance and the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact.

The poll showed the Social Democrats (SPD) as the most popular party in the run-up to the elections with the support of

30 per cent of decided voters. Twenty-one per cent preferred the conservative alliance backed by Kohl's Christian Democrats and 15 per cent supported the reformed Communist Party, now called the Party for Democratic Socialism.

Kohl, meanwhile, has intensified a new international campaign to reassure his nation's allies and neighbours he is not gambling with their interests or bungling the German unification process.

Kohl's government yesterday vowed that "all steps on the path to unity will be done in close co-ordination with our partners in the alliance, in the European Community, and with our neighbours in Eastern Europe."

Less than 24 hours earlier, Kohl reassured his Nato partners in Brussels that the Germans would not try to go solo during the unification process.

Meanwhile, Kohl's Christian Democrats issued new appeals for East Germans not to leave their homeland. More than 100,000 East Germans have gone to West Germany this year, placing tremendous burdens on social services and the housing and job markets.

Wolfgang Mischnick, a leading lawmaker with the Free Democratic Party, junior partner in Kohl's coalition government, said emergency shelters for the East German resettlers may be shut down after East Germany's March 18 elections to discourage more from heading West.

Hungary accord signed

Red Army to go

BUDAPEST, March 10, (AP): The Soviet Union and Hungary today signed an agreement calling for all Red Army troops to be withdrawn from Hungarian territory by the middle of next year, Hungarian radio reported.

The pullout will begin on Monday, according to the agreement signed in Moscow by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his Hungarian counterpart, Gyula Horn, the report said.

Hungary is the second Warsaw Pact country to negotiate a complete withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Prague and Moscow reached an agreement last month on the removal of 73,500 Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia. The pullout there began Feb 26.

Such pullouts were requested after pro-democracy revolutions swept communists from power across eastern Europe late last year and early this year.

door," said Ms. Ionescu, shivering in a beige raincoat outside the passport office. "It is a key to the world."

Under Ceausescu, only a few well-connected individuals received passport. Applicants usually faced extensive paperwork, interrogation and even the loss of jobs or housing if it was thought they meant to emigrate.

"I knew it was useless" to apply before, Ms. Ionescu said. "And I was afraid. They would have asked me for the names of my relatives, even the very old ones."

On Jan 8, the interim government ruled that all Romanians were entitled to pass-

port. Since then, more than 1.2 million people have applied, prompting huge lines outside passport offices.

"You can realise that for ordinary people this was something unbelievable," said Maj. Gen. Valeriu Rozolobanu, head of the Romanian passport office.

He said even some people not planning any trips were applying for passports. "Many of them, after getting the passport, keep it in their pocket and say 'I have a passport. I can use it whenever I want, and this is a great thing,'" he said.

The council of national unity voted yesterday to boost ethnic minority

representation but restrict the role of the military in Romania's first freely elected post-war parliament.

Romanian millionaire Ion Ratiu has returned from exile planning to launch a media offensive that he hopes will stop a walkover by the provisional ruling party in post-revolution elections.

Romania's police, discredited during the 24-year-rule of Ceausescu, are struggling to shrug off their image of incompetence.

Under Ceausescu, the blue-uniformed state militia were officially in charge of day-to-day law and order.

UK may ban 'bandogs'

LONDON, March 10, (AP): The government said yesterday it was prepared to consider banning a dangerous breed of dog called "bandog".

Bandogs are a cross between a pit bull Terrier and a larger, stronger breed, such as a Rottweiler.

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals described the 130-pound (50-kilo) bandogs as "Darwinian nightmares," capable of killing human beings in a one-to-one fight.

Asked if these dogs might be banned, Home Secretary David Waddington said: "I'm prepared to look at anything."

Sofia parties confer to unite: Delegates from dozens of independent groups began a three-day conference Friday designed to unite Bulgaria's non-communist opposition before multi-party elections due in June.

Also Friday, some 150,000 people demonstrated in the capital Sofia for a free press, the state media reported.

The Sofia rally had been called by the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (UDF) and editors of at least three independent publications that have been established over the past month.

Speakers at the rally called for a fair distribution of newspapers among all publications and no limit on subscriptions, the state BTA news agency and state-run TV reported. (AP)

Kosovo all-night curfew lifted: Authorities in Kosovo Friday lifted an all-night curfew imposed last month in the restive Yugoslav province to help quell a wave of protests by ethnic

Albanians. Kosovo's police, in a brief statement, said the reasons for the curfew "no longer exist," the state news agency Tanjug reported. The curfew was introduced Feb 21.

The Yugoslav Army ordered its units into the province late last month to help police restore order.

Other restrictive measures such as a ban on "all movements and gatherings of people for the purpose of demonstrating" still remain in force, a ranking Kosovo official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told the Associated Press. (AP)

Iraqi jailed for beating wife: An Iraqi man who banged his Swedish wife's head against a wall was jailed on Friday, an appeal court reversing an earlier judgement that he deserved leniency because of his different cultural background.

The high court in this northern Swedish city ruled there were no extenuating circumstances and sentenced him to two months' imprisonment on a conviction of assault, unlawful intimidation and coercion.

"Nobody can in future seek refuge in their cultural background when they commit serious offences like this," Anita Wallin-Wiberg, the wife's lawyer, said after the ruling. (Reuters)

France threatens to boycott: France threatened on Friday to boycott an international AIDS conference in San Francisco in June because of the US visa policy towards carriers of the fatal virus.

"The French government reaffirms its commitment to the principle of non-discrimination towards AIDS sufferers," the French Health Ministry said in a statement.

"If the staging of this conference does not provide guarantees that the principles safeguarded in France will be respected... it would be impossible for the French authorities to attend or support representatives and associations wishing to go," it added. (Reuters)

Lean awarded

British film director Sir David Lean raises his arms in celebration after receiving the prestigious Lita Achievement Award from the American Film Institute at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. (Reuters wirephoto)

Unesco's drive to woo Britain: Unesco's drive to woo back Britain and the United States may be compromised by a \$6 million administrative overhaul announced by its Director-General Federico Mayor, diplomats say.

Sources close to Unesco told Reuters on Friday they were "baffled" by the timing of staff changes, published this week as part of Mayor's much-heralded reform of the UN educational, scientific and cultural agency he took over two years ago.

They come as Britain and the United States are reconsidering membership of the agency, which they quit five years ago citing anti-Western bias and waste. They took 30 per cent of the agency's revenue with them. (Reuters)

Gysi makes safe landing: East German Communist leader Gregor Gysi, whose party is likely to crash in next weekend's free elections, made a safe landing on Saturday after his first parachute jump.



Natta

Italy reds relaunch party

BOLOGNA, Italy, March 10, (Reuters): Italy's Communist Party, the West's biggest, took a first step today towards transforming itself into a Social Democratic Organisation following the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe.

But as party chief Achille Occhetto appealed for unity among members, the hardline old guard indicated they would fight on to try to preserve communism.

Occhetto spoke as delegates, representing the Italian Communist Party's 1.4 million members, wound up a four-day congress and began voting on policy changes.

These included electing a new Central Committee and handing over to the PCI, and create a new Social Democratic Movement encompassing sections

The congress will be followed by a "constituent phase," expected to last at least six months, during which the changes will be debated nationwide before another congress is called to approve them.

Romanians rush for passports as Ceausescu-era strict regulations are eased

BUCHAREST, March 10, (AP): For Diana Ionescu, the symbol of Romania's new democracy is green, weighs 35 grams (1.5 ounces) and slips into a pocket.

It is a passport. For the first time it is available to the 22-year-old student. She is not alone. For most of Romania's 23 million citizens, a passport was a dream under the harsh rule of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu.

Since his overthrow and execution in December's revolution, Romanians have besieged passport offices and embassies seeking their first travel documents.

"This passport is something like a

Mandela offers A-bomb of peace

10 killed in new SA unrest

DARESSALAAM, March 10, (Agencies): South African black leader Nelson Mandela, told thousands of Tanzanians he would return to his country with an "atomic bomb" that would bring peace and end destruction.

In Cape Town, racial and political violence killed 10 people in South Africa at the start of the weekend and encouraged speculation that Mandela may cut short his first visit abroad since his release from jail.

The reports said Mandela, in Tanzania until tomorrow, would return home soon to try to halt the violence that has flared since his release in February after 27 years in South African jails.

Mandela is in Tanzania on a six-day visit as part of a 17-day African tour to promote the anti-apartheid movement.

"We will go back to South Africa with an atomic bomb in our heart and blood, not for the purposes of destruction, but to bring about peace and equality in our country," Mandela said in an address to more than 30,000 people in Dar Es Salaam's sports stadium.

The bomb "will bring happiness and not misery to all South Africans," he said.

Mandela, made deputy leader of the ANC last Friday in Zambia, was scheduled to visit the military training camps he set up almost 30 years ago. Even though South African President Frederik de Klerk announced sweeping racial reforms last month, Mandela said the ANC was not ready to abandon the armed struggle against the white minority government.

Tanzanian authorities have banned press coverage of Mandela's three-day camp inspection, at Mandela's request.

Mandela held lengthy talks Wednesday with former president Julius Nyerere, opened a road named after him and received the Order of Kilimanjaro, 2nd class, one of the highest decorations of the Tanzanian government.

Violence flared across the country last night with officers firing pistols, shotguns and tear gas in clashes with black rioters and vandals.

Police offered no explanation for the trouble which followed riots in two of South Africa's nominally-independent tribal homelands.

About 100 people were arrested in Cape Town today when police halted an unauthorised march through the city to press for the release of political prisoners.

About 3,000 people staged a similar march through the Indian Ocean port of Durban but police did not intervene.

Mandela thanked African states yesterday for their support in the struggle against apartheid in South Africa but said there was still work to be done.

He interrupted his Tanzanian visit to make a 24-hour trip to Ethiopia at the invitation of the Ethiopian government and

Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

He left Addis Ababa to return to Tanzania to visit ANC military and educational camps in Tanga town before a scheduled departure tomorrow for Sweden, his first trip outside Africa since he was released from prison.

Mandela's purpose in visiting Sweden is twofold — to pay homage to ANC figurehead Tambo at the clinic where he is undergoing therapy after a stroke, and to cement the close ties between Stockholm and the ANC, Swedish officials say.

The Swedish news agency TT reported that British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock would visit Mandela during his planned stay in Sweden from March 12 to 17, but British and Swedish officials were unable to confirm this.

King Moshoeshe II of Lesotho is expected to go into exile in Britain after a bitter dispute with the country's military government, palace officials said today.

3 die as planes collide in air

Two small planes collided and crashed into two homes, killing all three people aboard the planes and showering a residential neighbourhood with debris.

The planes, one trailing an advertising banner and the other piloted by a trainer and his student, collided Friday at an altitude of about 1,000 feet (304 metres). They crashed into the houses about a block apart in this suburb of Fort Lauderdale (crash site shown above).

Next door, Jeannie Brooks, 22, was bringing in groceries and her two small girls. "It looked like confetti in the sky," she said. "It looked like it was coming down right on top of me."

Miramar police officer Grace Cooper said there were no reports of injuries to anyone on the ground. Fire trucks doused the wreckage to prevent explosions and police sealed off several streets, some littered with debris. (Reuter wirephoto)

Haitian dictator stepping down

PORT-AU-PRINCE, March 10, (Agencies): Haitian dictator Prosper Avril, bowing to pressure of massive civil unrest, was ready to hand over power today to his military subordinate, a radio executive quoted the French ambassador as saying.

Radio Metropole news director Clarence Renoir said French ambassador Jean Raphael Dufour told him Avril would relinquish power in a nationally broadcast radio speech at noon from the presidential palace.

Under the plan reportedly negotiated between Avril and the US and French ambassadors, Avril would turn over the government to acting Army Chief of Staff Gen. Herard Abraham.

Abraham, diplomatic sources said, has agreed to hand over the government on Monday to the Supreme Court, until elections can be held.

It was not clear whether Avril would leave the country.

Avril's decision came after reported intense negotiations between him and Dufour and US ambassador Alvin Adams.

Avril's ouster was demanded by a 12-party opposition coalition that launched a round of protests throughout the West Indian nation March 4. The coalition, the association of political parties, had demanded that the provisional government be headed by the vice-president of the Supreme Court, Volcy Alphonse.

Sporadic gunfire was heard in several parts of the capital before dawn today but residents seemed unconcerned.

"The soldiers are shooting because they are afraid of the people," a resident of the Fort Nationale section of the city said.

Demonstrators erected barricades of burning tires around the city yesterday and staged demonstrations calling for Avril's ouster. Students clashed with police at one college, and authorities opened fire, wounding several people and creating panic at a nearby hospital, a student representative said.

"We have to get rid of this guy. He can't stay any longer," said one Haitian. "Everyone wants him to go."

An estimated 200,000 people have participated in the week-long demonstrations that have spread to every part of Haiti, an impoverished nation of 6 million people that occupies the western third of the island of Hispaniola in the Caribbean.

At least four people, including one soldier, have died in the demonstrations, officials said.

Earlier it was reported that Avril was planning to leave Haiti for an undisclosed European country. Sources close to the palace said his two grown sons had already left for Europe, possibly to prepare for their father's departure.

Pinochet rambles before quitting office

SANTIAGO, March 10, (AP): In an emotional farewell, President Augusto Pinochet pinned "Mission accomplished" medals on his cabinet ministers and said his 16-year-old military government restored order to Chile.

The general, scheduled to hand over power tomorrow to an elected civilian — Patricio Aylwin of the Christian Democrat Party — said he called the final cabinet meeting yesterday to "reaffirm the absolute peace of mind that we should feel for having fully accomplished our mission."

Pinochet, however, has said he will remain commander of the military despite

Aylwin's call for him to hand over control of the armed forces.

In a low voice charged with emotion, Pinochet said his right-wing military government was leaving behind "a society that is free, at peace and orderly."

Pinochet presented each minister with a "Mission accomplished" medal. The award was recently minted by the government and Pinochet received the first medal.

International human rights organisations have repeatedly criticised the government for human rights abuses since Pinochet led the Sept 11, 1973, coup that toppled elected president Salvador Allende.

Also yesterday, in a separate ceremony to decorate the new commander of the navy, Pinochet said the armed forces will remain strong and united after he gives up power.

He did not elaborate, but in recent speeches Pinochet and other military leaders have warned of alleged efforts by anti-Pinochet political groups to infiltrate and destroy the armed forces.

Under a 1980 constitution written by his administration, Pinochet, 74, cannot be replaced for eight years as commander of the powerful 60,000-member army.

The constitution also makes the armed forces the "guarantor" of Chile's internal

security and legal framework.

In other developments eleven bombs exploded late yesterday in the Chilean capital two days before the inauguration of president-elect Patricio Aylwin and one blast wounded a man near the US consulate, police said.

A police spokesman said the explosions in different areas of Santiago hit government offices, private businesses, the home of a military officer and a Mormon temple.

A gardener, Jose Santibanez, was badly wounded by a bomb that exploded in a park in front of the US consulate, the spokesman said.

I was not told to lie: North

WASHINGTON, March 10, (Reuter): Oliver North, back in the Iran-Contra spotlight against his will, has told jurors that his former White House boss John Poindexter knew of his deeds but never told him to lie about them to Congress.

Wearing a pin-striped suit and a wounded look, North was hostile and evasive as he answered prosecutors' questions in Poindexter's criminal Iran-Contra trial yesterday.

Giving curt "yes" and "no" answers and quibbling over fine points of evidence, North sat in the witness stand surrounded by reams of his former testimony before Congress, at his own trial and at the hearing in Poindexter's case in December.

He frequently asked prosecutor Dan Webb to refresh his memory using the stacks of documents.

When Webb referred to the Contra supply plan by its code name, "The Enterprise," North objected, saying he had always called it "Project Democracy."

North acknowledged that he and Poindexter communicated about the affair by a private White House computer channel known as "Private Blank Check."

In a memo sent on this channel, North gave Poindexter an inventory of Contra assets in July 1986, including six aircraft, warehouses, supplies, ships, boats, ordnance, munitions and a 6,500-foot airstrip worth \$4.5 million.

Prosecutor Dan Webb read this list in court and then asked North: "Is this a good example of how you were keeping Poindexter advised of your Contra supply operations?"

"Yes," North said. Later, Webb asked: "You say two national security advisers (Poindexter and his predecessor in the Reagan White House, Robert McFarlane) told you not to reveal your Contra activities. Did that include lying to Congress to conceal your Contra activities?"

"No one ever told me to lie to Congress," North said.

North leaves court

Skull aboard Atlantis

WASHINGTON, March 10, (AP): A human skull was carried on the recent mission of the space shuttle Atlantis to help scientists determine how much radiation penetrates astronauts' heads when they are in space.

The skull, owner and gender undetermined, had been carried aboard once previously and will also be placed aboard the shuttle Discovery when it is launched next month, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

The industry magazine, Aviation Week and Space Technology, said "the Phantom head, as it is officially designated, was mounted on the right wall of the shuttle middeck near the lower end of an astronaut sleeping bag."

Chamorro seeks \$400m in US aid

WASHINGTON, March 10, (Reuter): The United States hopes to provide quickly at least some of the \$300 million to 400 in aid sought by Nicaragua, an official of its incoming government said yesterday.

President-elect Violeta Chamorro had asked for the aid to help rebuild the Central American nation's war-torn economy, said Francisco Mayorga, her chief financial adviser.

"The (Bush) administration hopes that they will find a way to bridge finance at least part of the package," he told reporters at the end of four days of talks in Washington.

He said Chamorro, who defeated Sandinista President Daniel Ortega in elections on Feb 25 and takes office on



Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas (right) and leftist guerrilla movement M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro share a laugh after signing a peace agreement. At right thousands of supporters and former M-19 guerrillas raise their arms in a show of victory, in Caloto. (Reuter wirephotos)



Colombian President Virgilio Barco Vargas (right) and leftist guerrilla movement M-19 leader Carlos Pizarro share a laugh after signing a peace agreement. At right thousands of supporters and former M-19 guerrillas raise their arms in a show of victory, in Caloto. (Reuter wirephotos)

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cuba to remain communist: Havana vowed on Friday to remain communist — not out of simple obstinacy but to defend a Cuban model of socialism different from the old East European version.

Cuba also dismissed the aspirations of its former East European allies — saying Poland wanted to become a second Sweden, Czechoslovaks were pressing for a return to their pre-war glory, while East Germans were carried away by unity euphoria.

"Our political independence, our economic development and our well-being are necessarily linked to the defence of our socialism," the domestic news agency AIN said in a commentary entitled "reasons for intransigence." (Reuter)

Castro urged to call elections: A group of intellectuals and economists and their host, presidential candidate Mario Vargas Llosa, on Friday urged Fidel Castro to call free elections in Cuba.

The three-day meeting, called "The liberty revolution," was organised by the Liberty Movement, a group of neo-liberal politicians and business people that formed around Vargas Llosa when he entered the race for presidency.

The theme of the conference was the political changes taking place in Latin America, Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

A letter to Castro was issued Friday by conference participants, and accused the Cuban leader of proposing a "holocaust" by promising to "sink the island in the sea before abandoning communism." (AP)

Quayle tours Caribbean nations: US Vice-President Dan Quayle is turning to economic and trade talks with Caribbean nations, while also seeking out regional leaders on how to ensure a peaceful transfer of power to Nicaragua.

Quayle arrived Friday in Barbados after discussions in Venezuela on the prospects of moving the Nicaraguan rebels to enclaves within Nicaragua as an interim step in demobilisation.

Quayle also discussed Central American peace issues with Barbados Prime Minister Lloyd Erskine Sandiford. (AP)

Redoubt volcano erupts again: Redoubt volcano erupted again Friday, throwing a plume of ash seven miles (11 kms) into the sky and toward Alaska's largest city, officials say.

Seismologists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory said the "moderate-size eruption" occurred at 9:51 am (1951 GMT) and contained less ash than previous blasts. (AP)

Gallows for killer

ATLANTA, March 10, (AP): A man convicted in a murder that was cited by the group claiming responsibility for two deadly mail bombs was sentenced to die in the electric chair.

Emmanuel Hammond, 24, was sentenced Wednesday by the jury that had convicted him of the kidnapping, murder and armed robbery of Julie Love, a 27-year-old Atlanta preschool fitness teacher.

A racist letter from a group claiming responsibility for the pre-Christmas mail bomb deaths of Judge Robert Vance of the 11th US Circuit Court of Appeals and Savannah lawyer Robert Robinson said the attacks were motivated by outrage over Miss Love's killing. Hammond is black. Love was white.

Actor arrested for drug case: Actor Corey Feldman was arrested and booked on suspicion of possession of heroin for sale, authorities said today.

Feldman, 18, of Beverly Hills, was arrested near Eighth Street and Central Avenue just south of downtown about 7:15 pm Friday. Sgt Gene Leary said. He was booked at the Parker Centre jail on suspicion of possession of heroin for sale, Leary said.

The actor, who appeared in the movie "Goonies," was handcuffed to a bench at the Newton division station before he was taken to the jail division for booking. Sgt Doug Tantez said. (UPI)

Transplant survivor leaves hospital: Twelve-year-old Stormie Jones, the world's only heart-liver transplant survivor, was discharged from children's hospital of Pittsburgh on Friday, following a 19-day hospital stay for a second liver transplant.

Hospital officials said surgeons were pleased with Stormie's recovery from her 10-hour liver transplant, but would continue to monitor her progress closely.

They said Stormie and her mother will remain in the Pittsburgh area for about two weeks for follow-up visits to the hospital before returning to their home in White Settlement, Texas. (Reuter)

Tennis pro faces murder charges: An aspiring tennis pro headed home from a tournament in Israel on Friday to face charges that he and his brother shot their millionaire parents to death, friends and relatives said. (AP)

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Aids doctor agrees to out of court \$1.35m

NEW YORK, March 10, (AP): A physician who claims she got Aids from a contaminated needle will receive \$1.35 million in a negotiated settlement of her lawsuit charging the hospital with negligence, a judge said yesterday.

Dr Veronica Prego, 32, will receive two-thirds of the award, or \$900,000 when it is paid by the city of New York in about two weeks. The remainder will go to the lawyers who represented her.

In her lawsuit, Prego contended she had developed Aids after puncturing her finger with a contaminated needle carelessly left amid soiled refuse on a patient's bed at the city-owned Kings County hospital.

After a trial that lasted more than two months, Prego unexpectedly dropped her lawsuit and agreed to the out-of-court settlement on Thursday, as the jury was scheduled to hear closing arguments. She said she would use the money to help her family and to provide for her medical expenses in "the tough days ahead."

Brooklyn state justice Aaron D. Bernstein originally ordered the participants in the lawsuit not to disclose the amount of the settlement. Yesterday, however, he reversed his order after a newspaper, the New York Post, sued to have the settlement unsealed.

The judge said he had issued the gag order to spare Prego the embarrassment of being questioned by reporters about why she settled for such a seemingly small sum.

"It was something that touched a chord with Dr Prego. She didn't want people to think that the value of the case was that little," Bernstein said.

"I didn't want Dr Prego to be questioned about the reason she took that amount of money when she sued for so much more," he said.

ARAB TIMES GRAND

BINGO

COMPETITION NO. 76

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First Full House: KD 100
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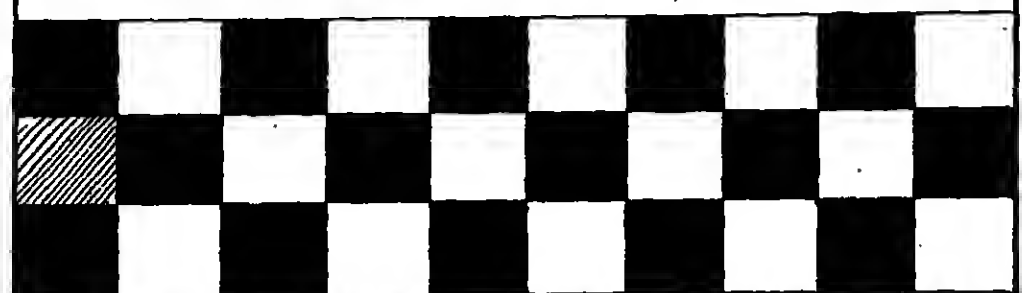
HOW TO PLAY

1. Solve the clue underneath the entry card (below) and enter the number that you think is the answer in the shaded square on the left-hand side of the card. This square must be completed.
2. Now select a further 14 numbers between 1 and 90 inclusive and enter these in the remaining open squares. You should now have 15 DIFFERENT numbers on your card. Please write them clearly, in ballpoint or ink.
3. Fill in your name and address in the

appropriate lines on the form, in block letters.

4. Make an exact copy of your 15 numbers on the copy card provided underneath, and keep it so that you can check off your numbers as they appear in the ARAB TIMES every day.
5. Register your Free Bingo entry by sending it to the ARAB TIMES. Read details below carefully.
6. Watch out for YOUR numbers each morning in the ARAB TIMES.

FREE BINGO No. 76 ENTRY



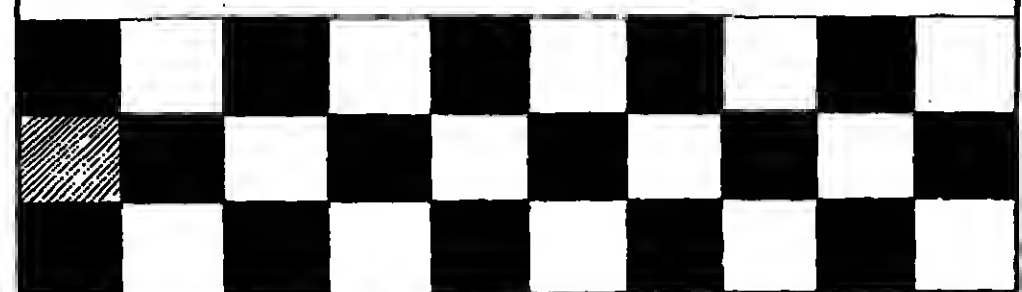
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IS YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE?

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How to claim

EVERYDAY four numbers will appear on Page Two. A number may be repeated. If this happens, continue with the rest of the numbers. Check off on your copy card the number or numbers which coincide with your selected numbers. Do this every day.

Please make a note of the last number you checked off, i.e. the one that completes your claim. Claimants will be asked to give this number which will decide the allocation of prizes.

When you have a claim, phone: 4813566/272 or 287 between 12 noon and 1 pm. Claims after 1 pm WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. You or anyone telephoning for you must have your copy card when the claim is made.

Is the initial of your surname in the front of the envelope?

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME ON THE BACK OF THE ENVELOPE AND INITIAL OF YOUR SURNAME ON THE LEFT HAND TOP CORNER IN FRONT. This is essential for the speedy checking of claims. Entries received without names and initials as mentioned above will be disqualified. When you have completed your entry

card and copy card and filled in your name and address, send in your entries, by post, addressed to: Bingo, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat Kuwait. A surer alternative is to deliver by hand to the Arab Times, Al-Seyassah Building, Airport Road, Shuwaikh.

GCC citizens now allowed to trade in Kuwait

Right to stipulate partnership reserved

THE Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Abdul Razzaq Al Khaled has issued a ministerial decision allowing GCC nationals to practice wholesale trading businesses in Kuwait, under which GCC citizens will be treated on an equal footing with their Kuwaiti counterparts.

The clauses under this decision provide that the beneficiaries of this law can run their businesses on their own but they must be resident in Kuwait and running only

one business in one location.

Other clauses stipulate that upon practice of this activity by a company registered in the name of a GCC citizen, the ministry has the right to stipulate the participation of Kuwaiti citizens in the ownership of this company by a percentage of share not exceeding 50 per cent.

Moreover, the beneficiaries must abide by the codes, rules and by-laws enforced by

the State of Kuwait on its citizens, and that they must obtain the necessary licences in line with the procedures applicable to Kuwaiti citizens.

Additionally, the beneficiary will import and export his merchandise in accordance with the system in force the State of Kuwait including the system regulating the practice of agencies, and that the licensed beneficiary will provide all maintenance requirements and

insurance in line with the agencies system regulations.

The clauses also provide that wholesale GCC beneficiaries will enjoy all rights available to Kuwaiti citizens, including access to public services and utilities, and that companies registered in the name of GCC citizens can open up branches to practice their trade and obtain the necessary licences.

Draft law allows state to dissolve trade unions

THE Council of Ministers has recently approved a draft decree allowing the government to dissolve trade unions and federations. The new draft decree introduces amendments to the labour law in the private sector of 1964 relieving the government from the need to go to courts in case it needs to dissolve a trade union or a federation. The new amendment states that the government can dissolve a trade union or a federation in case of violations in accordance with a recommendation by the minister of Social Affairs and Labour.

The amendment allows the dissolving of the trade union or the federation in several cases including if it becomes incapable of meeting its financial commitments or if public interests or security necessitates the dissolution.

The amendment allows the self-dissolving of the trade union and federation by a decision by the general assembly.

Tax-time for US citizens

A REPRESENTATIVE of the US Internal Revenue Service will visit Kuwait again this year to give guidance and assistance to US taxpayers in filing their 1989 tax returns. She will be in Kuwait beginning Sunday, March 25 through Saturday, March 31. For further information please contact the American Embassy at telephone 2424151 ext. 263.

You may also contact the IRS office at the US embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Mrs Vicki Hodges may be reached Saturday through Wednesday, from 8.30 am till 12.00 noon. And 1.00 pm till 4.00 pm. Telephone (00966) (1) 488-3800 ext. 206.

Changes

The deduction for each exemption, that is for you, your spouse and each dependent has been increased to \$2,000 from \$1,950 for 1989. Remember! You must list the social security number of each dependent age 2 or older you claim on your 1989 return.

The 1989 standard deductions are: Single \$3,100; married filing jointly or qualified widow(er) \$5,200; married filing separately \$2,600 and head of household \$4,550.

There are different standard deductions in the instructions for individuals age 65 or older or blind, and for individuals who can be claimed as a dependent on someone else's return.

All government cheques, including IRS refund cheques, are now valid for only one year and not valid for renewal/extension. If you have not received your 1988 tax refund you should contact the Riyadh IRS office to obtain a claim form. Cheques issued prior to October 1, 1989, are valid until September 30, 1990.

The tax rates remain the same as in 1988: 15 per cent and 28 per cent. The foreign earned income exclusion remains \$70,000. IRA rules remain the same.

THE Soviet floating eye hospital, Floks, is to leave the Middle East next month. Floks management say no more operations will be performed on board the ship, which is currently berthed in Jebel Ali near Dubai, after April 5, though diagnoses will continue up until April 13.

"Some Soviet trained doctors will remain in the UAE to carry out post-operative checks on those patients who undergo operations in the final weeks of our stay here," said a Floks spokeswoman. Doctor Minas Atamian has been appointed on-board medical liaison officer to help patients who may have problems or queries.

Floks arrived in Dubai last October for a six-month stay. Jebel Ali was chosen as its first major operational port of call outside of the Eastern bloc because of an unprecedented demand from Middle East patients for Soviet eye surgery.

By the end of last month a total of 9,607 people



Soviet official received

Undersecretary of the Ministry of Electricity and Water, Abdulla Al Munayes received recently the director-general of Soviet energy resources and the accompanying delegation. Bilateral relations were discussed during the meeting.

Agricultural development

Arab League aims at enhancing efficiency

THE Arab League has set up different organisations and specialised economic and vocational unions aimed at realising the League's objectives, among which, the Arab League established the Arab Organisation for the Arab Agricultural Development.

To highlight the workings of this organisation, a local daily interviewed the Director of Foreign Relations Department at Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources, Amir Maarafi who confirmed that setting up this organisation is aimed among others at enhancing co-operative relations among Arab countries in the agricultural field, in addition to co-ordinating relevant efforts.

Additionally, the official said that the authority aims at developing human resources working in the agricultural area and improving relevant investment opportunities in addition to upgrading productive efficiency and increasing vegetable cultivation and animal production so as to achieve economic integration in the agricultural field among Arab countries.

Effort

He said that the organisation spares no effort to increase agricultural development in the member states in addition to conducting several economic feasibility studies in the Arab countries. He disclosed that during the last few years, the organisation had prepared about 500 studies reflecting the agricultural problems facing Arab countries and also at expanding the productive base.

Maarafi said that the most prominent study carried out by the organisation concentrated on setting up of Arab strategy and food security programmes and added that Kuwait is playing a vital role towards realising these objectives. In this respect, the organisation had prepared a climatical Atlas covering different areas of the Arab world.

Maarafi said that the organisation had issued a directory which contains all the names and addresses of Arab experts working in the agricultural field in addition to preparing of the Arab Agricultural Dictionary of 18 volumes which contains over 20,000 terms in Arabic, English and French languages. This is a serious attempt to unify agricultural terminology, the official said.

Speaking of the scientific research carried out by the organisation, Maarafi said that it has concluded agreements with about 13 international centres for agricultural research and these centres had positively responded to the need to provide training opportunities for the Arab staff working in the agricultural field in addition to co-ordinating efforts between the national and regional research centres.

The organisation has gained international confidence which is represented in concluding different contracts between the organisation and 14 other international organisations and institutions in addition to five advanced countries in the agricultural field and a number of Arab and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, Islamic Development Bank, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

The organisation had adopted several training courses, including Fish Culture Training Course which took place in Hungary, Agricultural Mechanism that took place in Baghdad, Enhancing of the Nutritional Value of Fodder which occurred in Damascus, Syria, in co-operation with the Arab Centre for Studying Arid and Drought areas and the Syrian Agriculture and Agrarian Reform Ministry in addition to a training course in the field of Designing Irrigation Systems which took place in Abu Dhabi and another training course held at Rabat, Morocco on Tissue Culture and the disease in palm seedlings.

Labour conference a success: Nasser

KUWAIT, March 10. (Kuna): Social Affairs and Labour Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Jaber returned here last night from Cairo after attending the 18th conference of the Arab Labour Organisation.

Sheikh Nasser, talking to Kuna at the airport, said the conference was fruitful as it represented a step forward on the path toward joint Arab action in the labour and social affairs areas.

He said the conference's discussions were objective in which labour problems were tackled with a genuine desire to reach realistic solutions.

He said such problems as unemployment, illiteracy, poor productivity and inefficiency were threatening the Arab world's economies and social fabric.

Sheikh Nasser was greeted by Farwaniya Mayor Sheikh Ahmed Al Himoud, Labour Undersecretary Issa Yassin, Kuna's Board Chairman and Director General Barges Himoud Al Barges and several ministry officials.

Kuwait, he added, is committed to implementing all the steps agreed upon and recommendations would also be carried out after being reviewed by senior officials.

He underlined the need for collective Arab action for such problems to be effectively solved and for points of disagreement to be eliminated.

Sheikh Nasser lauded the air of understanding and dialogue prevailing among Arab countries and described it as an "achievement" that deserves to be enhanced and expanded on a political and economic basis so that the "possible would not be squandered in pursuit of the impossible."

He said the conference was a success in its deliberations and organisation.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sabah banquet

TUNISIA, March 10. (Kuna): Kuwait's Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed hosted a banquet today in honour of the ministers participating in the 3rd session of the Arab League Council.

The banquet was attended by the Arab foreign ministers and heads of delegations, League's secretary-general Chadi Kibbi and the permanent representatives as well as Sheikh Sabah's accompanying delegation.

Fahd meets Diouf

RIYADH, March 10. (Kuna): Saudi monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz conferred here last night with visiting Senegalese President Abdou Diouf.

Discussions during the meeting centred on the latest developments on the Arab and Islamic platforms, in addition to issues of mutual concern.

Talks also focused on ways of fostering bilateral relations between the two countries, Radio Riyadh reported.

The meeting was attended by the Saudi and Senegalese delegations grouping Saudi Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, Amir of Riyadh Region, Prince Mohammed Bin Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz, Amir of the Eastern Region, King Fahd's private chancellor Ibrahim Al Angari and Saudi Ambassador to Senegal.

The Senegalese delegation which attended the meeting grouped Foreign Minister Ibrahim Fall, Abdou Diouf's special advisor, Gili Ambar, in addition to other officials.

Haroun in Syria

DAMASCUS, March 10. (Kuna): The visiting Kuwaiti Undersecretary of Higher Education, Dr. Mohammed Al-Haroun, began talks with Syrian officials here today.

Discussions with Syrian Minister of Higher Education Kamal Sharaf, president of Damascus University and other officials from the Higher Education Ministry will focus on ways of enhancing bilateral cultural relations, scholarship system and matriculation.

Haroun, who arrived here last night from Amman for a three-day visit, will also get acquainted with the developments of higher education in Syria and the system of matriculation, university degrees.

He will also meet with the Kuwaiti students studying in Syria to discuss their needs and to examine their problems.

Education meet

KUWAIT, March 10. (Kuna): Education Undersecretary Abdul Rahman Al Khodari said today that the symposium on unifying mathematics curriculum at Arab Gulf secondary schools aims at enriching the educational process to a great extent.

In his opening speech at the symposium, sponsored by the Arab Centre for Educational Research for Gulf States, Khodari affirmed that organising such a scientific gathering is a bright proof of the centre's persistent efforts toward unifying scholastic curricula.

Personnel talks

KUWAIT, March 10. (Kuna): Head of the Communications Ministry's Human Resources Department Mohammed Refai left for Sweden to talk with executives prominent in Swedish industry which specialises in training.

He told Kuna he would return with the company's staff selection and evaluation

Floating eye hospital to leave Middle East in April

THE Soviet floating eye hospital, Floks, is to leave the Middle East next month.

Floks management say no more operations will be performed on board the ship, which is currently berthed in Jebel Ali near Dubai, after April 5, though diagnoses will continue up until April 13.

"Some Soviet trained doctors will remain in the UAE to carry out post-operative checks on those patients who undergo operations in the final weeks of our stay here," said a Floks spokeswoman. Doctor Minas Atamian has been appointed on-board medical liaison officer to help patients who may have problems or queries.

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By the end of last month a total of 9,607 people

had visited the ship in Jebel Ali to undergo diagnoses — more than one quarter later underwent surgery.

Almost a third of the patients came from the UAE but the figure also includes 1,352 from Oman; 1,193 from Saudi Arabia; 741 from Kuwait; 541 from Bahrain; 478 from Qatar; 413 from Jordan and 283 from Iran.

The Petr Pervyy, a former car carrier, was converted into a hospital ship last year at a cost of \$12.75 million. The brainchild of famed Soviet eye surgeon, Professor Svyatoslav Fyodorov, the vessel houses a seven-stage computerised diagnostics centre and multi-station operating theatre.

Teams of Fyodorov-trained surgeons on board carry out the latest eye micro-surgery techniques including keratocoagulation, vaser-reconstruction and negative lens implantation.

On April 14, the Petr Pervyy will be dry docked in Dubai. It will later sail to a Mediterranean port.



The Floks floating eye hospital — just one more month in the Middle East.

Security men foil major smuggling attempt

Capital governor promises better facilities

KUWAIT city governor Sheikh Jaber Abdullah Al Jaber has said that security men have successfully been able to foil an attempt to smuggle 250,000 drug pills worth thousands of dollars.

He told a local daily that a total of 49 attempts to smuggle liquor, 64 others involving drugs of different kinds and 572 cases of fake teasers had been registered.

The governor is currently engaged in a number of organisational projects in different administrative, social and health facilities which were aimed at facilitating public services and overcoming existing difficulties the official said and disclosed

that several government and private agencies had sought contributions to these projects through co-operation with the governorate council members.

Stable

The security apparatus in the country operates under one agency and that is the Interior Ministry and that the existing co-operation between the Ministry and the governorate was based on a strong commitment to security regulations to keep the state of security stable and under control, the governor said.

He drew a distinction between the functions of Mukhtar and those of the governorate council members, pointing out that the former's were confined to preparing a list of all residents within the area under his supervision and to provide the security authorities with details of their residence addresses, issuing the requested certificates and others.

He added that the functions of the governorate council members included the studying of proposed government projects, future plans and commenting on existing laws, adopting recommendations and supervising public affairs in the area.

He ruled out any intention to annex new areas to the existing governorate boundaries, following the issuance of the Amiri decree outlining the boundaries of the existing five governorates and related areas.

The existing budget of each governorate council is KD half a million which was enough to meet its initial requirements. Other funds are expected to pour in from co-ops contributions and peoples donations and those endorsed by the Higher Council.

The governors regularly met to exchange views and discuss important issues of public consequences.

Hungary's Palestinian links stay, says envoy

KUWAIT, March 10, (Kuna): A ranking Hungarian diplomat here affirmed that his country's pro-Palestinian stance has not been tarnished by the restoration of diplomatic relations between Budapest and Tel Aviv, and said that his country has officially recognised the state of Palestine.

In an interview with a local Arabic daily, Hungarian Ambassador to Kuwait Balint Gal stressed that his country did not recognise the occupation of Palestinian lands in 1967, "and we will not do so in light of our new policy."

He said that Budapest firmly believes that a UN-sponsored international conference, with the participation of all parties concerned is the ideal mean toward a solution of the Middle East crisis.

On the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, Gal said that many efforts are being exerted to convince parties involved to abandon their stubborn stances, expressing optimism toward realising this goal.

On Hungary's stance toward Jewish emigration to Israel, he said the freedom of movement is guaranteed by human rights and democracy, but settling Jews in the occupied Arab territories is totally against UN resolutions.

In this respect, Gal affirmed that there is no Jewish emigration from his country to Israel, Western Europe, or the US. Commenting on the Lebanese situation, he said that following the endorsement of the Taif accord last year, his government was optimistic that a solution is possible in war-ravaged Lebanon, but stressed that situation looks dim amid the current hostilities in eastern Beirut.

On the Iraq-Iran conflict, the Hungarian ambassador said that his country enjoys deep-rooted relations with both Muslim neighbours and attaches great importance toward ending the state of no-war no-peace between them through negotiations.

On relations with Kuwait, he said that they are heading toward the better in all fields, "and we are happy over our ties with Kuwait, which began in 1974 until the present."

At home, he said that in light of the new reforms, Hungary has focused on establishing a multi-party system and a free economy and pledged that parliamentary relations will be held on time and a new cabinet might follow.

He said that the re-unification of the two German states is a pure German affair. On Hungary's bid to join the EEC, the ambassador said that such a decision is not merely political and requires pushing the Hungarian economy to the ranks of the community's members, but noted that the EEC reply to Budapest's request was positive in principle.



Adult education students graduate

Under the patronage of the assistant under-secretary for general education affairs Suad Al Rifai, and within the framework of Kuwait's celebrations of the International anti-illiteracy anniversary, the Department of Education for adult illiterates held a special function to honour graduates of the eighth batch of the anti-illiteracy centres. These included Qadisiya, Fahla, Granada, Rumaithiya, Bayan and Alzahr centres of Education.

The function was held at the Qadisiya Centre for women and the director of the department Abdul Aziz Al Najdi delivered the opening speech in which he congratulated graduates on their outstanding performance. He stressed the incessant government support to combat illiteracy in the country and facilities available to eradicate this problem. Picture shows a graduate receiving her certificate from Suad Al Rifai.

Children's book exhibition

Parents advised to encourage reading

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

ARE CHILDREN reading more books than we did when we were kids? Maybe, maybe not but the demand for literature for children is growing, says Julia Eccleshare, children's literary books selector of the Book Trust, London.

Julia is in Kuwait for the British Council's Children's Book Exhibition which opened last night.

She admits young people are being distracted by media like television and video but they are also reading as much, if not more than before, at least in the UK. As an example, she cites the growing number of titles which are published each year. At the moment, over 6,000 titles for children are published, she says.

"Parents are worried about education, and there is a great emphasis on developing a child's reading skills," said Julia. This means making books available to children through clubs, school libraries and other sources. Children five years and older are reading more and more books, but apparently not as many as parents would like them to.

What are the children reading?



Julia Eccleshare: selecting literature for children

"They are not reading historical books, that's for sure," said Julia.

Fantasy

Children today prefer science fiction and futuristic stories, classic fantasies and imaginary tales are also popular among

children; stories with a supernatural edge, funny animal tales and anything children can relate to, be it contemporary life or imaginary stories.

Books by Roald Dahl are best-sellers and much in demand. Julia describes his books as "funny, slightly rude, irreverent, unusual and child-centred." Some of Dahl's best-sellers are Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, BFG and Matilda.

"It's important that adults recognise good books for children, recognise quality writing and encourage children to read them," she said.

Other popular writers are Dick King-Smith, Jan Mark, Margaret Mahy, John Christopher and Monica Hughes.

She advises parents to select readable books, irrespective of content, with illustrations to match and an understanding of children.

"It's not what children like to read, it's important how well you tell the story," she said.

Some Children's Books of the Year are: Bye Bye Baby (Janet and Allan Ahlberg); Goggle Eyes (Anne Fine); The Sheep Pig (Dick King-Smith); The Beary Tale (Anthony Brown); The Snowman (Raymond Smith); The Changeover (Margaret Mahy); Man in Mitten (Jan Mark); Going On a Bear Hunt (Helen Oxenbury); Oil Get Off My Train (John Burningham) and Quick! Let's Get Out Of Here (Michael Rosen).

Publishing for children has become big business in the UK. More and more publishers are recognising the money in children's books, consequently improving their status. But children's books are considered a luxury and are sold at specialist outlets. In recent years, they have been made available at supermarkets in the hope of pushing up sales.

"Books remain a minority culture, and as there is not as much money in it as toys, and there is a lack of publicity. But there is a growing demand for exploiting the market," said Julia. There is also a need to encourage children to take up reading. This not only helps them to learn the skills but also instills an interest in reading for pleasure, she added.

A selection of 400 titles covering a wide range of subjects from science and maths to history and people are being exhibited at the British Council, which is holding the show in co-operation with the British Book Shop. Books on display will be sold at 20 per cent discount.

230 to attend Transplant conference opens today

By Nashaat Al Agha

THE Second International Congress of the Middle East Society for Organ Transplant — MESOT — will be opened today at 8.15 am at Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel under the patronage of the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah.

The secretary-general of the Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations Dr Abdullah Al Rifai and director of Hamed Al Essa Organ Transplant Centre Dr George Abuma held a press conference on the occasion. Rifai said that the congress will be organised by MESOT in co-operation with Kuwait Foundation for Advancement of Science (KFAS), Kuwait University (Faculty of Medicine) and Kuwait Institute for Medical Specialisations (KIMS). About 230 scientists, specialists and surgeons will attend the congress and will discuss the latest medical and scientific methods of transplanting different organs. He added that Kuwait has been acclaimed for its proficiency in the field of transplanting kidneys and pancreas. It is time to start a major national campaign to encourage people to contribute their organs. Kuwait has issued a transplant law supported by the Islamic Sharia. He added that famous Muslim scholars supported organ transplants and called on relatives of dead people to agree to permit the donation of organs of their deceased relatives.

Dr George Abuma who is also the head of the organisational committee of the congress and the chairman of MESOT (based in Ankara) said that the congress will be held from 11/3 to 15/3/90. The organisational committee has selected 204 papers to be reviewed and discussed during the meetings out of 260 research papers received by the committee from different medical centres in the world including the Middle East.

He added that 30 researches will also present their papers during the congress.

Abuma pointed out that there will be 14 sessions on the transplant of organs like kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas cells and bone marrow. There might be an exhibit of the latest medical equipment and medicines that are used in transplant surgeries.

The visitors and guests will enjoy a daily programme to visit the touristic places and landmarks of Kuwait besides social activities.

He added that a grand Arabic public seminar will be held on Wednesday March 14 between 6 and 8 pm on the problems and solutions of donating organs in Kuwait and the Middle East.

Donations

Kuwait's Minister of Planning and Acting Minister of Public Health and the Chairman of Kuwait's Organs Transplant Society, Dr Abdulrahman Al Awadi was quoted as saying that about 750 citizens and residents have joined the society to date.

In an interview with a local daily, Awadi said that these members had registered their approval to donate their organs after death. He disclosed that out of eight dead members last year, the families of four had agreed to donate their organs. However, he said that this level could be considered encouraging, viewed in the light of customs and traditions prevailing at the present.

However, he was optimistic that with heightened awareness to the importance of donating organs in a bid to save lives, specially kidneys, the response in the number of members who will be willing to donate their organs after death and the compliance with their wishes by members of their families will also increase.

He said that a ministerial decision had been issued in this respect to organise the issue and several committees are being formed to study the issue.

Replying to a query on the Hamed Al Issa Centre for Kidney Disease, the official commended the centre's contributions as distinguished and added that the centre was staffed with eminent professionals.



Amir receives Belgian Crown Prince

HH the Amir received Belgian Crown Prince Albert and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Mohammad Al Mazidi and Belgian Ambassador to Kuwait.

Healthy economy

Burgan Bank to heighten overseas activities: Ahmad

THE Burgan Bank has envisaged plans to develop its existing functions and introduce new activities during the decade of the 1990s at both the local and international levels.

The bank will increase its involvement in the banking activity by increasing its securities portfolio and procure new financial resources by having new investment projects. Sheikh Ahmad Abdullah Al Ahmad, the chairman and managing director of the bank said.

Healthy

The official said that the bank will also increase its branches by expanding its presence in various housing areas. Additionally, the bank will strive to have different activities in international markets and benefit from the changes in East Europe and the European Community that will come on the scene by the end of 1992. The bank will open branches in these markets and will also be actively involved in a number of other countries that achieved success in industrial and financial projects like in the Far East, he said.

Ahmad said that the local

economy is now running at a healthy pace and is stable after having suffered from local and foreign negative factors during the last period. The national economy of Kuwait is affected by the economies of other countries, the official said. However, he added that economic liberality of East Europe, the economic unity of Europe by the end of 1992 and the appearance of new industrial communities in the world with abilities of Kuwait to export surplus of capital investments abroad will all be positive factors on the performance of the national economy.

He commented that the stability of oil prices and predictions of an increase in the future coupled with the stability of the local scene after the end of the Iraq-Iran war will positively help the national economy rebound.

He praised the report of the joint economic committee and said that it will activate the national economy. The most important issue mentioned in the report is the settling of debts taken from banks by citizens that amount to less than KD250,000. The recommendations in this respect will help debtors to resume their activities again, the official said and praised the recommendation

to merge some banks and financial institutions.

Ahmad pointed out that the law of investment funds that will be issued in the near future will activate the national economy. He added that the level of savings in Kuwait is very large due to the high incomes. But, he commented that the savings of non-Kuwaitis which till now have not been invested in the stock market will be invested after the issuance of the new law in the shape of investment funds. The non-Kuwaitis will be allowed to possess real estates, but only through these funds. This is intended to develop the economic activities and increase prices of real estates and the stock market.

The banking official said that national banks, including Burgan Bank believe in the necessity to replace non-Kuwaiti manpower with Kuwaitis without adversely affecting banking services. This scheme will provide the vehicle to attract new graduates to the banking sector. These new graduates could then be provided intensive training courses in the multifaceted intricacies of the banking industry to qualify them to take up senior positions, Ahmad said.

New course system at KU soon

TO MEET certain demands of students and introduce amendments to overcome existing shortcomings, it is hoped that Kuwait University will introduce new academic course systems during the next academic session.

The university could also study the cases of students who were dismissed according to the present charter if amended, Dr Abdullah Al Fihaid, dean of students affairs at Kuwait University said. He added that the university could then study the appeals of these students that are submitted individually on the basis of reasons mentioned in these appeals.

He praised the model stands taken by the Union of Kuwait Students and added that the union has explained and rejected the present charter within the framework of co-operation and understanding taking into consideration the interests of the educational strategy in the country.

He said that the committee on guidance and supervising at the faculties will hold a meeting next

week to discuss and review proposals of faculties about amending the charter that was founded in 1986. One of these proposals relates to cancelling the grade (pass D) for students who get 2 points out of 4 and replace it with the grade (good).

He stressed on the need to study the reasons that are attributed to extending warnings to students and methods of eradicating them and recommended that intensive courses should be instituted or providing for admission exams.

Meanwhile, the head of Kuwait students union at the university Naser Al Enzi said that administration of the university is going about slowly in amending the charter of the courses system. It promised to finish the problem during the last Fall session but did not do anything until now. He added that the present charter was the reason that hundreds of students at Kuwait University are dismissed every session. The union moved to express its rejection in the charter and called on the university to speed up review and approve the amendments of the charter.



Guerlain's 'Samsara' launched

Samsara the 'infinite cycle of births and rebirth' is Guerlain's new fragrance, introduced to Kuwait. The oriental, amber based fragrance is a mixture of sandalwood and Jasmine enveloped in iris, rose, violets and narcissus. A complete range of Samsara was introduced to satisfy all customers. Picture shows Jean le Breton, Export Director - Guerlain (centre) during a press conference held at the Meridien Hotel to promote the new fragrance.

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Kuwait National Cinema Co. S.A.K. announces that it has the sole rights of exploitation of the above-mentioned film in Kuwait (and Video) and warns anyone of dealing in this film, whether in selling or renting it or any other manner of exploitation. The company will take necessary legal action to protect its rights for this film.

KISHEN KANHAIYA

JEEDE

NAGME 19



A dug-in tank and troops loyal to Afghan President Najib surround the Ministry of Defence in Kabul yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Egypt vows to crush threats against unity

Crackdown on fundamentalists

CAIRO, March 10, (UPI): Egypt's Islamic affairs minister said authorities would crack down on anyone threatening national unity, after clashes between Muslim Fundamentalists and security forces this week left at least one person dead, a Cairo newspaper reported yesterday.

"The state will strike with an iron fist anyone trying to undermine national unity," the daily Al Akhbar quoted Islamic Affairs Minister Mobammed Ali Mahgoub as telling a government-organised rally on Thursday at Abu Qurqas, 125 miles (200 km) south of Cairo.

"This applies to Muslims and non-Muslims alike," he said.

The rally followed clashes between Islamic fundamentalists and security police when extremists set fire to Coptic churches and shops, killing at least one person and injuring a police officer.

The violence apparently erupted after distribution of a pamphlet decrying affairs between Coptic Christians and Muslim women, Al Akhbar said.

Fundamentalists were also reported to have burned down a candy factory after hearing rumours

that the Coptic owner's son was having an affair with a Muslim girl. Marriage between Christian men and Muslim women is discouraged in Egypt.

Since then, the Interior Ministry said it had released a number of detainees, including 30 high school students.

Coptic and Muslim religious leaders agreed at the rally to promote national unity in churches, mosques, schools and other organisations.

Mahgoub pledged that the government would compensate anyone whose property was damaged during the clashes.

Calling on moderate Egyptian Islamic leaders to help fight sectarian religious violence, Mustapha Al Fiqi, a political adviser to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, accused Islamic fundamentalists of exploiting Egypt's relatively free political climate.

Fundamentalists were blamed for the 1981 assassination of Egyptian president Anwar Sadat. The Cairo government has retained a ban on the Muslim Brotherhood, and has admitted keeping in jail some 600 fundamentalists under emergency regulations.

Bombing began as Najib had lunch

KABUL, March 10, (AP): President Najib had just finished lunch when bombs came a few feet (metres) from toppling his government.

Shortly after 1 pm Tuesday, several bombs rocked the presidential palace, killing four soldiers from the elite presidential guard. One cluster of three small bombs gouged out two craters and gutted an administrative office 12 feet (four metres) from where Najib was working.

The force of the blast cracked the walls of Najib's office, said Lt Col Mohammad Hassan, who was on duty at the time. Windows shattered around the President but he apparently emerged unscathed.

"The explosions were terrible," Hassan said.

Afghanistan's main air base of Bagram, north of the capital Kabul, remained closed today.

Rebel military planes flew throughout Tuesday and Wednesday from Bagram to bomb the presidential palace and other military installations in Kabul before the government said loyal troops captured the base.

Bagram had more than 60 military planes when the coup led by Defence Minister Colonel-General Sahnawaz Tanai was launched on Tuesday.

Tanai, a hardline Marxist opposed to compromise with Muslim rebels fighting the government, was sacked after the coup attempt and was still at large.

He had been at odds with Najibullah

over attempts to moderate the government's Marxist philosophy and to appease the Western-backed rebels.

The Afghan government has accused Tanai of conspiring with Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the most radical of the Muslim rebel leaders battling the Soviet-supported Kabul government.

Government sources said only about five planes staged the air raids during the coup attempt.

Some were reported to have been forced to fly, but they did not bomb and simply landed at other airports, the sources said.

Pilots loyal to Najibullah bombed Bagram runways making it difficult for rebel pilots to take off, the sources said.

This explains why the number of rebel

planes was limited. Diplomatic sources said at least five MiG-21 and Sukhoi-22 Soviet-built planes took part in the bombing.

These sources however said it was possible some planes took turns with those at Bagram so the total number of rebel aircraft over the capital did not exceed the estimated number.

Najibullah has purged his ruling party after the most serious attempt yet to overthrow the administration.

He told a news conference on Thursday the coup attempt was crushed and pledged to pursue "national reconciliation" with mujahedeen rebels who have waged civil war for 11 years.

Jordan pardons illegal workers

AMMAN, March 10, (AP): Labour Minister Qasem Obeidat announced that Jordan will not prosecute an estimated 225,000 illegal foreign workers on a condition they leave the country within two months and never return, a Jordanian newspaper reported.

The English-language daily Jordan Times said Obeidat announced that the decision was effective immediately. The minister was not available for a comment.

Obeidat's latest policy supercedes the government's January order giving foreign workers two months to obtain legitimate work permits.

It follows a series of strict government measures aimed at freeing jobs for the estimated 85,000 unemployed Jordanians.

"All illegal foreign labourers can leave the country now without paying any fines or facing other legal proceedings," Obeidat told the newspaper.

The minister was referring to a labour law which stipulates that foreigners working illegally in Jordan should be penalised a 50 dinars (\$85) a month and 90 days in prison for each month of violation.

Obeidat was quoted as saying that in exchange for amnesty, foreigners working illegally have to sign an affidavit that they will never return to Jordan, not even for a visit.

The newspaper said the minister stressed that the amnesty would only last for only two months.

On Wednesday, Prime Minister Mudar Badran vowed to freeze government funding for projects if employers hired foreign workers instead of Jordanians.

He also demanded that at least 70 per cent of the workers hired by foreign contractors be Jordanians and that a Jordanian partner be involved.

In January, the Labour Ministry stopped issuing new permits for foreign workers and announced a crackdown on the 225,000 unregistered foreigners. They said there were some 375,000 foreign workers in the country out of a total work force of some 700,000.

Although most foreign workers in Jordan came from Egypt, there were also sizeable numbers from Syria, Pakistan, India, Lebanon and Sri Lanka, Premier Mudar Badran told parliament recently.

The ministry also vowed to fine employers, who have preferred to hire foreigners who will work cheaply and for long hours.



A Christian lady listens to radio at her sheltered balcony in east Beirut. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aoun ready to take 'vacation'

Talks offer to Hirawi

BEIRUT, March 10, (UPI): Maverick Christian leader Gen. Michel Aoun expressed readiness to enter into direct dialogue with Syrian-backed President Elias Hiriawi and step aside if an accord on resolving the 15-year-old civil war is reached, the An Nabar newspaper reported today.

The leading newspaper quoted Aoun as saying that he was ready to leave the presidential palace in Beirut's suburbs of Baabda and take "a vacation."

"Baabda (palace) is not an objective in itself. What is more important is to reach a solution acceptable to all Lebanese," Aoun said, "then I can take a vacation."

It was the first time the 54-year-old general showed readiness to step aside since former President Amin Gemayel appointed him to head a military cabinet on Sept 22, 1988.

Aoun said he was prepared to enter into direct, unconditional dialogue with President Hiriawi regarding a peace accord hammered out in Taif, Saudi Arabia, Oct 21.

The application or abrogation of the Taif accord should not be made a condition for the proposed dialogue, Aoun said.

The Lebanese Parliament approved the agreement, which

was backed by the Arab League, but Aoun rejected the pact because it failed to ensure a speedy withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

He has also refused to recognise the authority of President Hiriawi, who was elected by the parliament under the terms of the Taif accord, and declared himself the head of the only legitimate government in the country.

In an interview with United Press International on Thursday, Aoun said a solution that would ease his concerns "could mean adding only a comma" to the Taif pact.

Beirut's residents have been living through a water shortage for the past 40 days, while the Health Ministry warned that the water which arrives at the capital from other places might be contaminated.

The ministry urged citizens to add two drops of a steriliser to kill the bacteria, which contaminates the water.

The western part of the capital and its suburbs have been managing without water, thanks to an arbitrary measure by ex-army commander Gen. Michel Aoun to stop pumping from the main water station, located inside his area of control.

Iran exposes adventurism US, Israel plan to rescue hostages

NICOSIA, Cyprus, March 10, (AP): An Iranian newspaper today said a "media blitz" on the US hostages in Lebanon was designed in part to prepare the American public for a military mission to try to free them.

But a key Muslim leader in Beirut, Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hezbollah, said of the hostages, "we believe there are encouraging elements regarding readiness to deal with this issue."

Fadlallah was answering a question from the daily newspaper Al Liwa if he thought the hostages would be released in 1990.

On Feb 23, after returning from a trip to Iran, Fadlallah had called in a sermon for "realistic and humanitarian means to free the hostages." Hezbollah is believed to be an umbrella for groups holding some of the 18 Western hostages.

Kayhan International, in an editorial today, said a US military rescue mission, involving Israel, would "end the so-called crisis with the death of at least the American hostages."

The newspaper cited no source or facts to back its assertions. Eight American hostages are among the 18 Westerners being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. The longest held is Terry Anderson, the chief Middle East correspondent for the Associated Press, who was abducted March 16, 1985.

"If the US and Israel embark on military adventurism, the hostages will in fact be a pretext for crippling the Islamic movement," Kayhan said.

The paper said other reasons for the current media campaign in the US press is to evaluate the reaction on Iranian officials and to use the humanitarian aspect to put pressure on Iran.

America, which is unable to understand Iran, "is in the process of assessing what will be the price of a possible transaction," Kayhan said.

It said the attempt to pressure Iran through stressing the humanitarian aspect of the hostage issue is a "particularly wrong-headed approach."

The Kayhan editorial was reported by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency, monitored in Nicosia.

The tone of the Kayhan editorial was in sharp contrast to other recent editorials in the Tehran Times, known to be close to Iranian President Hashem Rafsanjani, calling for release of the hostages, and to a statement this week by Rafsanjani that the hostage issue was nearing solution.

Kayhan's positions are often at variance with those of Rafsanjani, who is attempting to consolidate his hold on power in Iran. Rafsanjani is opposed by radicals who disagree with his wish to end Iran's isolation and gain Western participation in rebuilding the country after eight years of war with Iraq.

The Kayhan editorial said another reason for the US "hostage propaganda" was aimed at positioning American firms to take part in the Iranian reconstruction.

US denies remark was to prod Shamir

WASHINGTON, March 10, (Reuters): The White House denied yesterday a published report that President George Bush meant to prod Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir by his recent remarks questioning Israel's sovereignty over East Jerusalem, and insisted Bush merely intended to restate US policy.

"There was no special motivation, it was in response to a question," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said of a New York Times report on Friday that Bush had deliberately raised the Jerusalem issue to get Shamir's attention.

The report quoted anonymous US officials as saying that Bush was concerned that Shamir was dismissing US objections to the resettlement of Soviet Jews in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem.

"US policy toward East Jerusalem is unchanged," Fitzwater said at a news conference, reading from a briefing paper.

Bush has caused an uproar in Israel by equating settlements on the West Bank, which Washington has always opposed, to the densely populated neighbourhoods the Israelis have constructed around occupied Jerusalem on land captured from Jordan in the 1967 war.

In Vienna, the United Nations' Commission of Women has denounced Israel's policy of resettling Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Rebels killed

KHARTOUM, March 10, (Reuters): Sudanese troops killed 40 rebels and destroyed a Soviet-made tank when they repulsed an attack on the town of Yei in southern Equatoria, the official Sudan News Agency (Suna) reported today.

It quoted a military communiqué as saying troops captured arms and ammunition from the Sudan People's Liberation Army unit which was repelled after fierce fighting.

One soldier was killed and six were wounded in the clashes which took place on Thursday, the agency said.

Relief efforts

UNITED NATIONS, March 10, (Reuters): The United States and the Soviet Union are working together to get emergency food shipments through rebel lines in Ethiopia, where five million people face starvation because of drought and civil war, a US Congressman said yesterday.

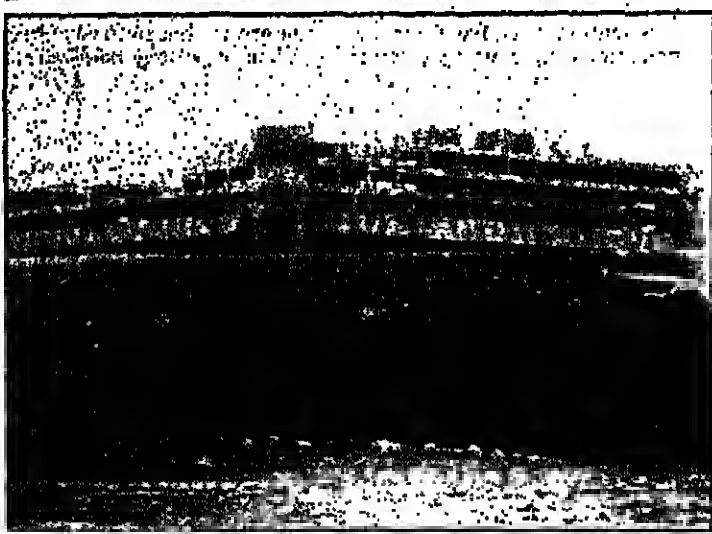
Thomas Foglietta, a Pennsylvania Democrat, told reporters the main problem was not finding donors but distributing relief in areas held by Ethiopian rebels where most of the hungry live.

"There is a co-operative action between the Soviet Union and the United States to get this accomplished," he said.

News leak

ANKARA, March 10, (UPI): A senior Turkish journalist was summoned to the police and public prosecutor's office and questioned about his sources in a news leak regarding talks between President George Bush and Turkish President Turgut Ozal, his colleagues said yesterday.

Uluç Gurkan, a senior reporter in the Istanbul newspaper Gunes Wednesday published a full page report containing the minutes of discussions Bush and Ozal held in Washington in January.



Arab League HQ

Workers continue construction of the Arab League headquarters in Tunis. Arab League foreign ministers meet today to debate an Egyptian proposal for a return of the headquarters of the 22-member organisation to Cairo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Assad criticised

WASHINGTON, March 10, (AP): The US State Department said yesterday that Syrian President Hafez Assad, in denouncing democratic change in Eastern Europe and calling for an endless war against Israel, "is out of step with the enormously promising changes unfolding around the world."

Margaret Tutwiler, the department's spokeswoman, said the people of the Middle East, including the people of Syria, have "no need for more bellicose rhetoric."

Rather, she said, they need "real statesmanship and commitment to the practical steps needed to bring about a Palestinian-Arab dialogue leading to a comprehensive peace settlement."

Yemens' merger

ADEN, March 10, (Reuters): The leaders of North and South Yemen today moved their talks on unification from the border town of Taiz to Aden, the Aden news agency said.

There was no explanation for the decision to move the talks from Taiz, where North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Ali Salem Al-Baidi, secretary-general of the ruling South Yemeni Socialist Party, have been meeting since Thursday.

Pacifist claim

TUNIS, March 10, (AP): An Israeli pacifist recently released from jail for meeting members of the PLO announced today that he has held fresh talks with the group's chairman, Yasser Arafat.

Rafsanjani welcomes Iran-Iraq peace talks

ATHENS, March 10, (UPI): Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani yesterday welcomed a new UN initiative to resume the stalled Iran-Iraq peace talks, but said he has little hope it would lead to a lasting peace in the region, the official Islamic Republic News Agency said.

Speaking at prayer ceremonies in Tehran, Rafsanjani said Iran had accepted a proposal by UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar for the Gulf peace talks to be resumed, but charged Baghdad with procrastinating.

If the new initiative failed, he said, "one day the Iranian people may have to use force to retake their territories."

"Although there are grounds for continuation of negotiations, Iran paraphrased Rafsanjani as saying, "there is little hope for solving the problem because

oppressive powers see their interests in prolonging the strife between the two countries."

"However, we welcome this new move and hope Iraq gives up its mischiefs and the (big) powers would desist from causing any damage in this regard," Rafsanjani said.

The peace talks between the two sides began under UN auspices days after the August 1988 ceasefire that ended the eight-year Gulf war.

Iran said at the time that it agreed to a ceasefire based on UN Security Council resolution, which also called on the two sides to hold discussions toward a lasting peace in the region.

The talks broke down when Iran insisted that Iraq should pull its troops out of some 800 square miles (2,000 sq km) of Iranian territory before further discussions could be held.

Archaeologists discover port in Sinai desert

CAIRO, March 10, (UPI): Japanese archaeologists have discovered a major port in Egypt's southern Sinai desert dating from the Ottoman and Mameluke periods, but the inhabitants of 20 homes will have to be relocated before work can continue, a Cairo newspaper reported yesterday.

"The Japanese expedition found a number of important archaeological buildings constituting the ancient Tor city harbour, which overlooked the present day Suez harbour, the semi-official daily Al Akhram reported yesterday.

Tor harbour, one of the most important Red Sea ports in the Ottoman era, was a major outpost for East-West trade. Muslim pilgrims also used the harbour for their journeys to Islam's holy shrines in Makkah and Medina between the 14th and 17th centuries, archaeologists said.

The Japanese mission will have to pay two million Egyptian pounds (\$750,000) to the inhabitants of 20 homes built above the new find, the newspaper said.

Libya invites US for talks on chem issue

ROME, March 10, (Kuna): An official of the Libyan Embassy here yesterday renewed his country's vigorous denial of Western reports that Libya was producing chemical weapons and invited the US to an open dialogue on the issue.

The Libyan official, who wished to be unnamed, also expressed his country's astonishment at the US reaction to those reports which originated in Western Europe and echoed by the American media.

The Libyan official, while repeating Tripoli's denials of the allegation, said "we invite the American administration to an open, frank and sensible dialogue on the issue without (the US) jumping to an attitude based on wrong and false reports."

The US embassy spokesman said his country's aim is to dismantle the Libyan Rabta chemical plant, claiming this was the only way, and not mere inspection, to ensure that no chemical weapons were being produced.

The official Libyan News Agency Jana appealed to Arab news agencies yesterday to combat a US "campaign of lies" regarding the Rabta chemical plant.

Libya's congress ends in stalemate: Khaddafi elevated to supreme leader

TRIPOLI, March 10, (Agencies): Libya's people's parliament has closed after an acrimonious row between the executive and deputies over financing the welfare state, with neither side the clear winner.

However, the decision by the general people's congress to elevate revolutionary leader Muammar Khaddafi to the status of supreme leader has given him the authority to over-rule any decision he disagreed with.

Political observers said it was unclear exactly what powers Khaddafi had been imbued with.

The eight-day meeting of the congress,

which ended last night, passed a law saying Khaddafi's role in the 1969 revolution gave him a legitimacy from which all the country's institutions derived their authority.

"So instructions issued by the leader of the great revolution, brother Colonel Muammar Khaddafi, are binding and it is a duty to carry them out," a declaration of revolutionary legitimacy said.

An earlier version said Khaddafi's directives had the force of laws passed by the basic people's congress, the local assemblies which theoretically ruled the country, but this was diluted by a congress

committee, members said. Jana, the agency, in a dispatch monitored in Rome, said the general people's congress declared that the Libyan people are "against all types of weapons of mass destruction" including "nuclear, bacteriological and chemical" ones.

Khaddafi's new status was meant to clear up ambiguities over his role after he repeatedly threatened to withdraw from the political arena, leaving the system to run itself.

Neither side emerged victorious from the conflict between an executive trying to deal with declining revenues and congress

members with instructions to demand more subsidies, more free public services and no new taxes or duties.

The local assemblies, at meetings across the country last month, told their delegates to reject tax reform measures and a health insurance scheme which would have required Libyans to contribute to health costs for the first time since oil made the country rich.

At the same time, the congress members accused themselves and those in charge of the local assemblies of "passing arbitrary resolutions which have increased the burden on the popular committees."



Workers leave the Rabta chemical factory in Tripoli. (Reuters filephoto)

Japanese harmony

Fine examples of Japanese art ranging from prehistoric times to the 19th century are being shown at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York

By Theodore F. Wolff

NEW YORK: Few places exude so profound a sense of peace and serenity as the Japanese rooms in the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Sackler Galleries for Asian Art. No outside sounds penetrate to this deeply interior area. The rooms are hushed and still, and the art, hung sparsely and judiciously in the Japanese manner, is subtle, muted and conducive to contemplation.

Every item on view is choice, whether it be a fragile piece of porcelain, an ancient, weather-beaten sculpture, or a folding screen depicting dramatic landscape vistas. Time seems to stand still. One becomes aware that the spaces between objects are almost as important as the things themselves.

A highlight at present is a special exhibition of 130 very fine examples of Japanese art from the collection of Peggy and Roger Gerry. It includes a wide variety of items ranging in time from prehistoric days of the 19th century. All were acquired by Gerry over the past four decades and have been promised to the Metropolitan.

Dominating the collection, at least in size, are a pair of six-section screens from the studio of Kano Motonobu (1479-1559) depicting "Four Gentlemanly Accomplishments." One of the finest examples of this kind, this work celebrates the cultivated enjoyment of music, games of strategy, calligraphy, and painting. These accomplishments, rooted in Taoist ideals of retirement and harmony with nature, and tempered by the Confucian tradition of worldly responsibility, are represented within a sweeping landscape symbolizing the eternal cycle of the seasons.

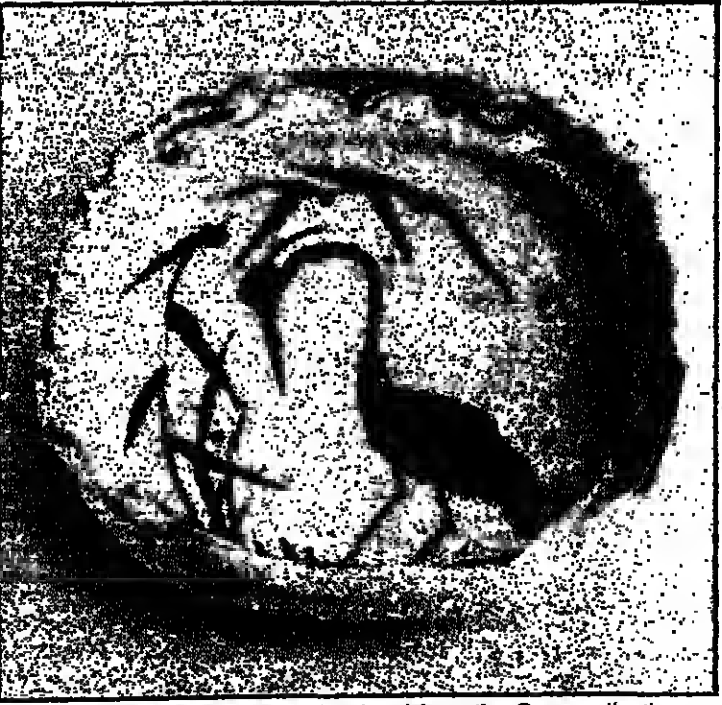
Cherished in private Japanese collections until 1927, these screens were painted to function not only as decorative items but as edifying that placed their owners within a long and lofty tradition of learning and refinement.

Ceramic

On a humbler level is a group of outstanding ceramic utensils made for everyday use by Japanese craftsmen living as far back as 2500 B.C. and as recently as the 19th century. The finest have the aura and presence of major sculpture, although they were fashioned to serve as ordinary storage jars, flasks, or vases. Most are deceptively simple, with a minimum of decoration, and exceedingly subtle glazes. One of the most distinctive, a Sue ware, early Nara period (646-710) gray pottery flask, was acquired by the Gerrys in fragments. One can only imagine their surprise when the pieces were assembled to make an almost intact pilgrim's flask.

The major portion of the show consists of over 90 examples of export porcelain of the sort sent abroad by the Japanese in the 17th and 18th centuries. Among the more attractive later pieces is a tankered fashioned in the shape of a pear and decorated with floral designs (late 17th century); a ewer (c. 1680) with a strap handle decorated with birds and pomegranates; and a teapot in the shape of a melon (late 17th century).

And last but far from least are the outstanding individual items scattered throughout the show. One of the most charming is a small (12-and-a-half-inch high), 10th-century cypress "Flying Angel," while one of the most exotic is a gold and silver illustrated frontispiece of a religious text, one of nearly 5,000 scrolls dedicated in 1176 to a clan temple.



A 16th century minoware serving bowl from the Gerry collection, on view at the Metropolitan Museum.

Next space mission

Hubble opens a window to space

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, (AP): Now that the space shuttle Atlantis is back on earth and its spy satellite in orbit, NASA can focus on the April launch of discovery and its prestigious payload: a telescope that could help scientists understand the origins of the universe.

The 1.5 billion-dollar astronomical observatory will be placed in orbit 370 miles (595 kilometers) above the earth for 15 years, allowing astronomers to study stars and galaxies so distant that their light has been travelling toward earth for 14 billion years. In other words, scientists will see what the objects looked like after the creation of the universe.

The telescope will give scientists a window to space, unhindered by atmospheric distortion, that could explain how and why the cosmos came to be. "Hubble is going to have the same kind of impact that Galileo's telescope had nearly four centuries ago, an improvement of 10 times over the naked eye, the Hubble space telescope will be 'about a factor of 10 greater than anything we can do at present from the ground,'" Fisk said. "Whenever you make that kind of leap in sensitivity and resolution, you suddenly are able to see parts of the universe that are only fuzzy to you at the moment."

Scientific information should be forthcoming one to two months after Discovery's scheduled lift off April 12, said Bill Taylor, the telescope's chief engineer.

But Fisk said, "The real insight, the real in-depth study of astronomy will come back over a period of years."

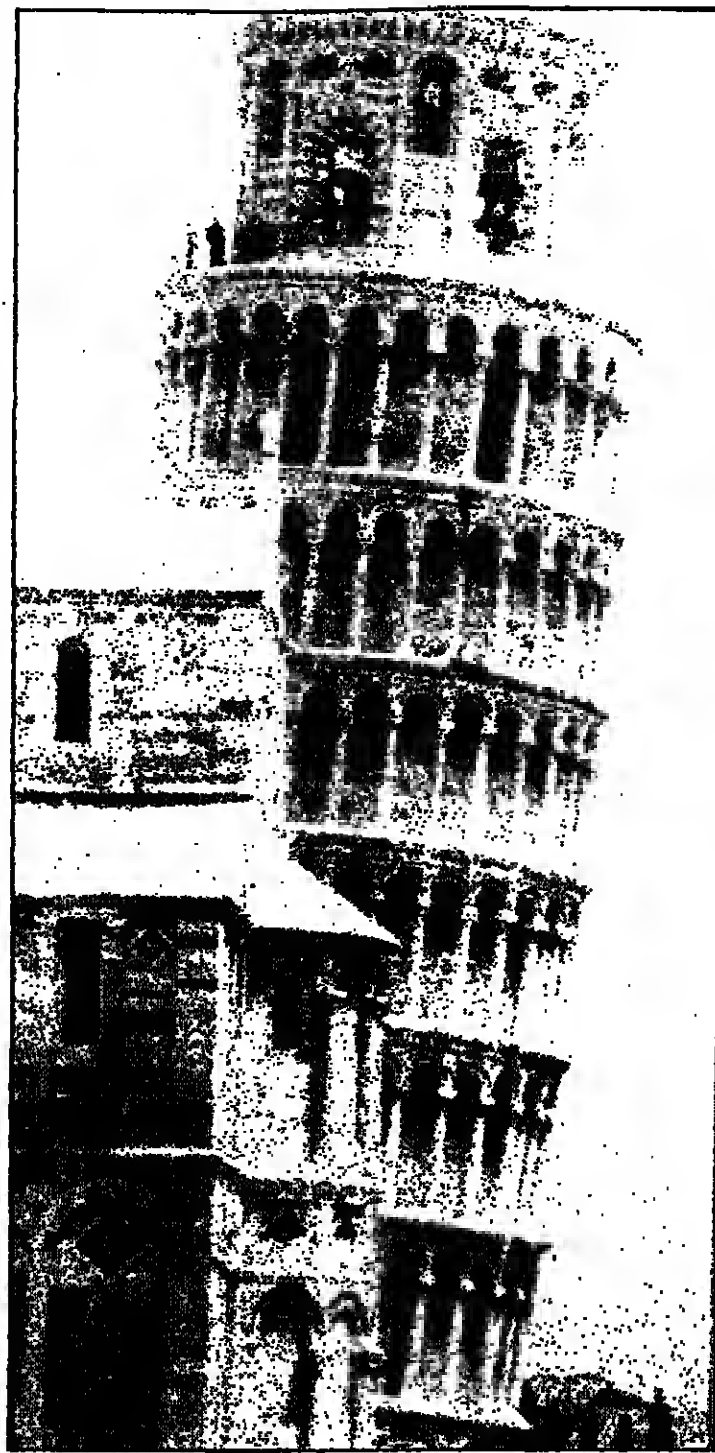
The first large optical telescope in space is named after the late American astronomer Edwin P. Hubble, who discovered that the universe is expanding.

The telescope's location above earth's atmosphere will enable the 25,000-pound (11,340-kilogram), 43-foot (13-metre) telescope to detect light of all wavelengths, including ultraviolet, before the light is absorbed or distorted by the atmosphere.

It will look seven times more deeply into space and detect objects 50 times fainter and with 10 times greater clarity than the best ground-based observatory. Its eight-foot (2.4 metre) primary optical mirror is the most precise ever made.

Images radiated down the telescope will take astronomers nearly to the edge of the universe. They hope to ascertain the size of the universe and clear away some of the mystery surrounding quasars, pulsars and black holes.

One of the more pressing questions — are there other planetary systems and, if so, are they inhabited? — may have to wait for an even more powerful telescope. The Hubble, the most expensive unmanned spacecraft ever built, originally was scheduled for launch in late 1983, but technical problems postponed lift-off. The Challenger explosion on Jan. 28, 1986 delayed the mission until 1989, and concern over the Shuttle's solid rocket boosters pushed it back yet again.



The Leaning Tower of Pisa: closed to tourists

Stars face menace of obsessed fans

By Ronald Clarke

LOS ANGELES (Reuters): Clint Eastwood has a licence to have a gun for his protection. Cybill Shepherd says she sleeps with a gun in a drawer next to her bed.

Stars are escorted by bodyguards when they go to public functions. Comedian Eddie Murphy has four.

Marion Brando has a closed circuit television system to watch over his home. Some stars have "panic buttons" which can snap down steel shutters over windows in an emergency.

Old Hollywood studios which built up armies of fans for their stars, sending out million of autographs, have left behind and unexpected menace — the obsessive fan.

A Michigan man, Michael Shields, 42, is due to appear in court accused of sending 212 letters to actress Stephanie Zimbalist, a star of the television series *Remington Steele* and daughter of Efrim Zimbalist Jr., of the long-running series *The FBI*.

Many of the letters were signed "your secret admirer," an FBI agent, Lawrence Lawler, said. One letter, attached to an FBI complaint, said: "You can run but you can't hide." Another said: "I have some mischief in mind."

Some of the letters contained photographs of the home of 31-year-old Zimbalist. "Miss Zimbalist is obviously relieved," a publicity agent said of the arrest of Shields, who faces charges of sending threatening communications.

A security specialist, Gavin De Becker, said television stars are particularly vulnerable because people see them in their living rooms and think they know them personally. Security guards watch over audiences at the televising of some of the situation comedies.

Roberta Schaeffer, a star of the series *My Sister Sam*, was shot dead when she answered a ring at her front door last July. Robert Bardo, 19, an unemployed caretaker described by police as obsessed by Schaeffer,

was ordered five days ago to stand trial for her murder.

Witnesses at a preliminary hearing said Bardo walked the streets showing a photograph of Schaeffer to people before she was killed.

Threat

A shipping clerk, Tina Ledbetter, accused of sending nearly 6,000 threatening letters to Michael J. Fox, star of the *Back to the Future* films and the television series *Family Ties*, was ordered last December to stay away from the actor and to undergo psychiatric counselling. She had spent 10 months in jail awaiting trial.

A Scottish drifter, Arthur Jackson, said he had a divine mission to take actress, Theresa Saldana to heaven when he stabbed her outside her Hollywood home in March 1982. He was due to be released from prison later this month, but new charges could keep him in jail longer, a parole board official said.

Saldana, who starred in the film *Defiance*, said: "This nightmare is far from being resolved." A Canadian farmer, Robert Kieling, was convicted several times of harassing singer Anne Murray. He was alleged to have telephoned her 263 times in six months.

A security expert, Douglas Collins, said he and a team of security experts posted a round-the-clock watch on Beatles drummer Ringo Starr and his family when fellow Beatle John Lennon was murdered by a fan, Mark Chapman, in 1980.

"They didn't go out. It was a very emotional time because no one knew of there was a conspiracy against all of the Beatles," Collins said.

"John Hinckley was trying to impress actress Jodie Foster when he shot and wounded President Ronald Reagan in Washington in 1981. 'You'll be proud of me, Jodie,' He wrote to the actress."

"It's very frightening for young actresses because they do not always have sufficient money to pay for security," Collins said. "It is really a shame out times demand this kind of thing."



Eddie Murphy: four bodyguards



Cybill Shepherd: sleeps with a gun

Master plan for restoration put on hold

By Karen Wolman

ROME, (CSM): Questions have often been raised about whether the Leaning Tower of Pisa was born bent.

In fact, the legendary list that has made the tower a marvel for mediaeval scholars and an enigma for engineers the world over first started when the ground beneath it shifted only a few years after construction began in the 12th century.

Now, the campanile is swirling in a controversy over just how much longer it can continue its gravity-defying stand. The debate was touched off by a recent report by the Italian Ministry of Public Works warning that the 14,000-ton marble monument was in imminent danger of toppling and suggesting it should be closed for repairs.

As a result, Pisa's mayor, Giacomo Granchi, decided to make one of Italy's top tourist attractions off-limits for the first time. Bells tolled out a dirge in mourning on Jan 7 when the tower was closed.

"Closure of the tower is mortifying for us and all Pisans," said Antonio Lazzarini of the Monument Preservation Committee, which oversees its maintenance. "It's definitely a defeat."

In principle, Mayor Granchi was against closing the tower. He only grudgingly signed a temporary closure order after weeks of wrangling with Public Works Minister Giovanni Prandini failed to give the tower a more permanent reprieve. And to prevent bureaucratic delays from keeping the tower closed indefinitely, Granchi has vowed to reopen it unless restoration work begins in three months.

"We're waiting to see how the government will respond to the mayor's challenge," says Lazzarini.

The mayor, who is backed by a bevy of local experts, argues that the commission sounded a false alarm and contends the tower is not at any greater risk now of collapsing than in the past.

Piero Pierotti, an expert on mediaeval architecture at the University of Pisa, acknowledges that the ground beneath the tower is unstable because of a fluctuating water table and that the marbles of its graceful loggia are heavily damaged. In a telephone interview he insists, "I'm convinced the tower is not in any more immediate danger of falling than it was before."

Indeed, most experts believe the tower — which now leans some 13 feet off-centre at its top — could resist gravity at least another century. If anything, they say, the latest measurements are proof that the tower's tilt is not getting worse. In June, the tower had only moved 0.2 millimetres (1/125th of an inch) the previous 12 months, well under the 1.1 millimetre average

since monitoring began early this century.

Tourists

One concern for Mayor Granchi's Pisan constituency is that the tower's closure will dry up tourist revenues. Pisa can count on some 800,000 visitors to the tower each year. This adds up to

prognosis: Without urgent treatment, the tower could topple "without warning."

Prandini's cure — the proposal of a team of five engineers — centres on construction of a giant scaffolding that would shroud half the tower. This metal girdle would provide a platform

Should Prandini's plan be executed, Pierotti fears it will destroy Di Simone's architectural alchemy. "The project was drafted by engineers who know nothing about mediaeval architecture," he laments. He is convinced the cure the engineers have proposed — and that was accepted by the ministry last year — is far worse than the problem. He remembers that three years ago the commission was suggesting the belfry be removed to lighten the tower. The weight of the 14th-century belfry, according to Pierotti, acts as a counterbalance to the tower's tilt.

The danger of a hotbed restoration looms large in Pisa. After one ill-advised attempt to consolidate the ground in 1936, the tower slipped by as much as three inches.

Furthermore, Pierotti attacks the engineers' assumption that the tower's dry stone masonry can be solidified by injecting the interstices with cement. "These hollow spots serve to both lighten the tower and make it flexible," says Pierotti, insisting that the loose filling in the walls was part of Di Simone's plan and that a good restoration must respect the use of original materials.

The use of cement is therefore anathema to Pierotti. The University of Pisa art historian is also petrified the tower's marbles would crumble in the metal grip of the girdle and that the planned excavation around the base could actually precipitate rather than prevent the tower's fall.

Master plan

For now, it appears the ministry's master plan for the tower has been put on hold, much to Pierotti's relief. Rather than implement the ministry's blueprint, Pierotti would prefer putting it back together again. That way, he says, the tower's secrets would finally be revealed.

Meanwhile, he hopes restorers will immediately begin repairing or replacing the marble columns that he says have been neglected for some 30 years.

The Prandini plan capped a long series of attempts to solve the Leaning Tower of Pisa's predicament. An international competition held in 1972 yielded some 22 plans, none of which was ever accepted.

Through the years the search has yielded some strange solutions for salvaging the tower. The preservation society charged with the tower's upkeep is regularly swamped with mail prescribing remedies from around the world.

A group of American schoolchildren suggested the campanile's rim be hooked to a hovering helicopter. Perhaps the zaniest idea was that of a well-meaning Florentine who proposed to erect a huge statue of Saint Ranieri, Pisa's patron saint, that would hold up the tower with the tip of his sword.

Leaning Tower of Pisa

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Pioneering heart surgery in the womb

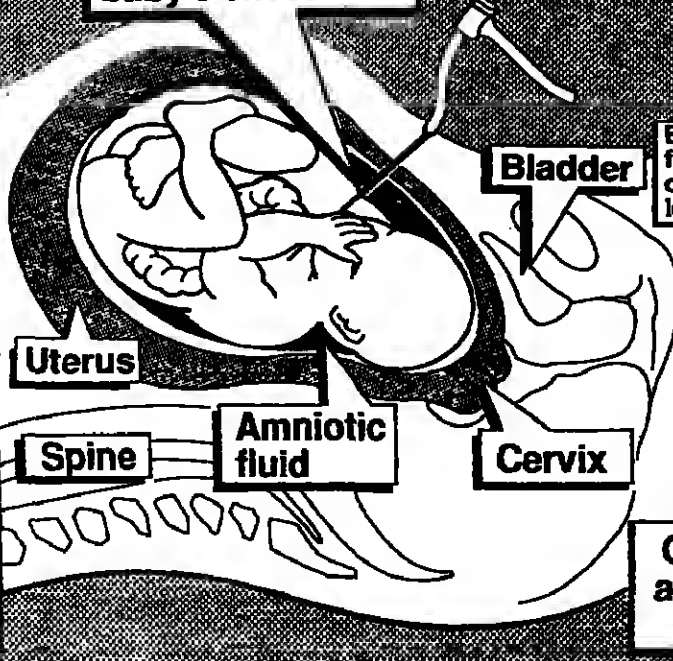
The world's first successful heart operation on a baby still in its mother's womb has been carried out at Guy's Hospital in London. And despite the baby's subsequent death from other complications five weeks after birth, doctors say they will continue pioneering the technique.

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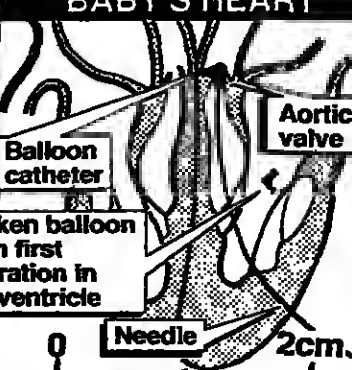
The surgery, which involved opening a valve in the baby's heart with a "balloon catheter" measuring just three millimetres in diameter, was carried out twice during the mother's pregnancy — at 31 weeks and 33 weeks. A third operation within hours of its birth ensured that the valve had been fully opened.

Most babies with this defect die in the womb and few who are born survive for more than 24 hours. Last year, the Guy's Hospital team performed the same operation but the baby died in the womb a day later. In this case, the baby boy was born prematurely on 4 January and survived for five weeks before kidney failure led to his death. Doctors say that despite the

Catheter inserted into heart through baby's chest



CROSS SECTION OF BABY'S HEART



Operations performed at 31st and 33rd weeks of pregnancy

This drawing shows how surgeons carried out the world's first successful heart operation on a baby still in its mother's womb.

death, the technique was a success and work with it will continue.

The operation involves inserting a hollow 1.2mm needle, similar to that used for amniocentesis, through the mother's abdomen and uterus wall directly into the chest and heart of the foetus. The needle enters the heart through the left ventricle and a high resolution ultrasound scan is used to guide the needle into the tiny heart.

A narrow flexible tube is then passed down the needle taking with it the deflated balloon and a piece of platinum guidewire. The

pumping action of the heart takes the wire and balloon directly across the aortic valve. Once it is in place, the cardiologist inflates the balloon to force open the valve and so improve the blood flow and pressure through the heart.

The team that pioneered the technique consisted of Dr. Lindsay Allan, director of Guy's perinatal cardiology unit, Dr. Darryl Maxwell, director of the hospital's foetal medicine unit, and Michael Tynan, professor of paediatric cardiology. Dr. Allan commented: "It is new, uncharted territory, but we are for the

first time recognising that some babies who once had no hope can be treated before birth."

It is hoped that such operations in the womb will replace heart transplant in the newly born. Foetal surgery also has the advantage that the healing seems to be quicker. In addition, the baby is protected from bacteria in the womb and its nutrition through the placenta is not interrupted.

(Dr Lindsay Allan, director, perinatal cardiology unit, Guy's Hospital, St. Thomas Street, London SE1 9 Rr; telephone 44-1-955-5000).

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE strongest human instinct is to impart information.
The second strongest is to resist it — Kenneth Grahame,
an author

Tranquil days over Chaos rules in Karachi

KARACHI, Pakistan, (AP): Guns, drugs, bloody ethnic clashes and fractious politics have infected the country's biggest city, and some say they threaten democracy in Pakistan.

Political parties fight pitched battles through Karachi's cramped alleyways. The latest clash on Feb 7 left 60 dead and hundreds wounded. Paramilitary forces still patrol the city and a curfew remains in place in some parts.

Gangs of student extremists have turned the closed universities into armed camps. Kidnappings and torture are commonplace. Unemployment is rampant. Government officials say they have no way to count the number of job seekers.

A gramme (0.035 ounce) of heroin costs less than \$2. Eleven years ago the drug was hardly found in Pakistan. Now an estimated 300,000 addicts crowd Karachi's slums, one-third of the nation's total.

A Kalashnikov automatic weapon, another recent arrival, rents for \$5 a day. Bands of robbers roam the countryside, and car thieves operate throughout the city.

The police, many people say, are either corrupt or incompetent. Police say they are outgunned and outmanned. Karachi has one of the lowest ratios of police to citizens of any city in South Asia: 458 to 1.

Beirut

"Karachi, once a city of peace, tranquility and affluence, has turned almost into Beirut," wrote Mahmood Ali Malik, a noted psychologist, in the Pakistan Times.

The army is certainly waiting in the wings," said Ahmed Ali Khan, editor of Dawn, the largest English-language newspaper. "Increased chaos could threaten our democracy."

Eleven years of martial law ended only two years ago after the death of Gen. Zia-ul-Haq in a mysterious plane crash; rumours of sabotage abound, with fingers pointed in every direction, from the superpowers to the military.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto presides over a shaky government, elected in November, 1988.

With a population of more than 8 million, Karachi is Pakistan's biggest city, its economic centre and its only major port, sprawling on the sun-baked coast of the Arabian Sea.

Any problem that Pakistan has, Karachi appears to have in greater measure, and because of its size and importance, Karachi's problems are national in scope.

Three layers of interwoven troubles weigh on the city and the rest of Sind province, which surrounds Karachi — ethnic strife, social breakdown and a newer phenomenon called "the heroin and Kalashnikov culture."

Guns have been plentiful in Pakistan ever since Soviet troops intervened in Afghanistan in December 1978 and the US-supported Afghan rebels moved their operations to Pakistan.

Millions of dollars in US aid to the rebels helped fund a huge arms industry in northern Pakistan. Simultaneously, the manufacture of heroin became an important source of income for Afghan refugees and the tribes in the area.

Weapons accompanied the narcotics south to Karachi, a main conduit for heroin to Western Europe and the United States. Seizures of 2,731 kilos (about 6,000 pounds) of heroin between July and December in Karachi last year were more than double that for all of 1986, and 10 times the amounts confiscated in earlier years.

Shootings

Shootings of law enforcement officers are common. A top customs agent was shot six times in the face and leg as he left his home in June last year on a supposedly secret raid. He survived.

Drugs and guns in the city combine with increasing crime in the surrounding countryside. Disputes that were solved by village headmen are now solved with guns, says historian Hamida Khoury.

"We face an institutional breakdown throughout the province," said Sind's Governor, Fakhrudin Ibrahim. "Chaos is ruling."

The police, he said, can do little to stop it.

"The police in Pakistan have always been a political tool. Years of martial law taught them that," he said in a recent interview. "I don't see it changing."

In addition, ethnic strife has plagued Karachi since Pakistan was formed in 1947 after the partition of India and the end of British colonial rule.

Pathans and Punjabis journeyed south to make a fast rupee in the port city. Sindhis came from the countryside to sell their produce. And immigrants, called Mohajirs, flooded from largely Hindu India to Muslim Pakistan.

The elements did not merge in the melting pot, and clashes between rival ethnic groups started in the 1950s.

Ethnic strife took on political overtones in 1985 with the formation of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement, which sought to represent the interests of immigrants from India.

The Mohajirs say they are discriminated against by the provincial government, dominated by Sindhis. They want more jobs and official recognition of their ethnic group.

The Mohajir Qaumi Movement, led by Altaf Hussain, has grown into an important political force, calling support from Mohajir communities that dominate Karachi and other cities in Sind.

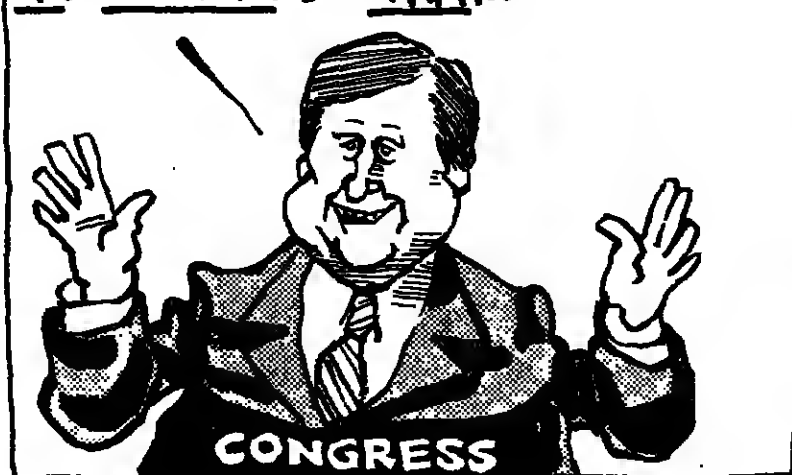
Karachi's local political problems took on a national scope when Hussain united with the national opposition in an attempt to bring down Benazir's government.

The two groups had been linked in a tenuous alliance. But Benazir's Pakistan People's Party, which is based in Sind, generally ignored Mohajir interests after it won the national election.

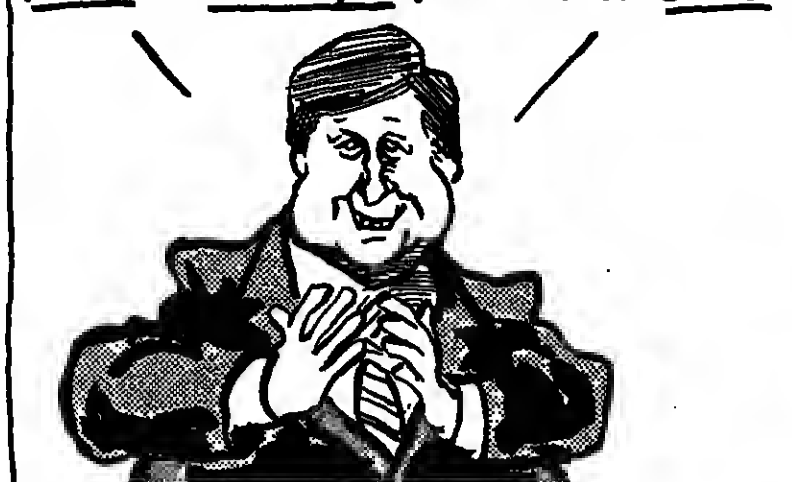
TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1597 — Austria's Archduke Albert captures Amiens in France.
- 1784 — British sign peace treaty with Sultan Tipu of Mysore in India.
- 1795 — The Marathas defeat the Mogul of Kurla in India.
- 1845 — Maoris stage further uprising against British rule in New Zealand.
- 1913 — Britain and Germany agree on frontier between Nigeria and Cameroons.
- 1917 — British forces capture Baghdad during World War I.
- 1920 — Amir Feisal is proclaimed king of an independent Syria.
- 1921 — France, in treaty with Turkey, renounces claim to Cilicia.
- 1936 — German forces enter Austria.
- 1943 — British Eighth Army repulses heavy German counterattacks in Tunisia in World War II.
- 1966 — Mob sweep through Calcutta, India, and surrounding towns in second day of food riots, and police kill five of the rioters.
- 1975 — Two Portugal Air Force planes attack military barracks in Lisbon in what is called attempt to overthrow left-wing military government.
- 1977 — Brazil cancels 25-year-old military assistance treaty with United States because of US State Department report criticising its alleged violations of human rights.
- 1987 — Sudanese-sponsored peace talks between Chad and Libya break down, and no date is set to resume negotiations.
- 1989 — Two dozen nations sign declaration in the Netherlands enlisting United Nations as watchdog against pollution of Earth's atmosphere.

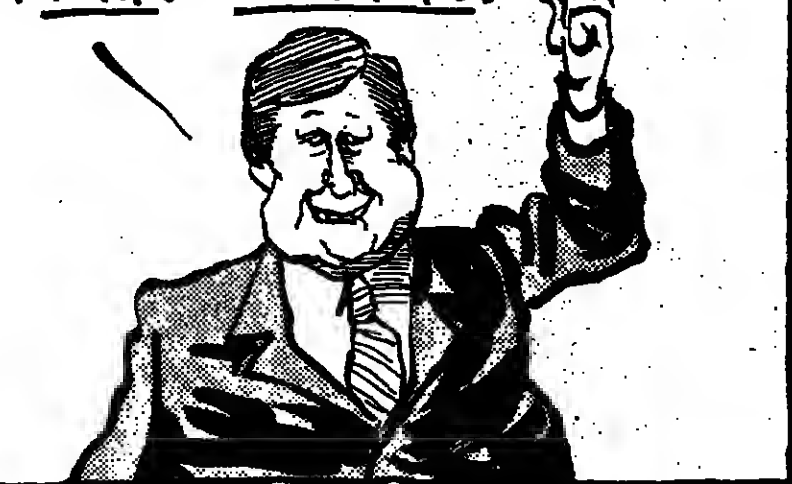
GORBACHEV HAS GIVEN UP HIS COUNTRY'S EMPIRE



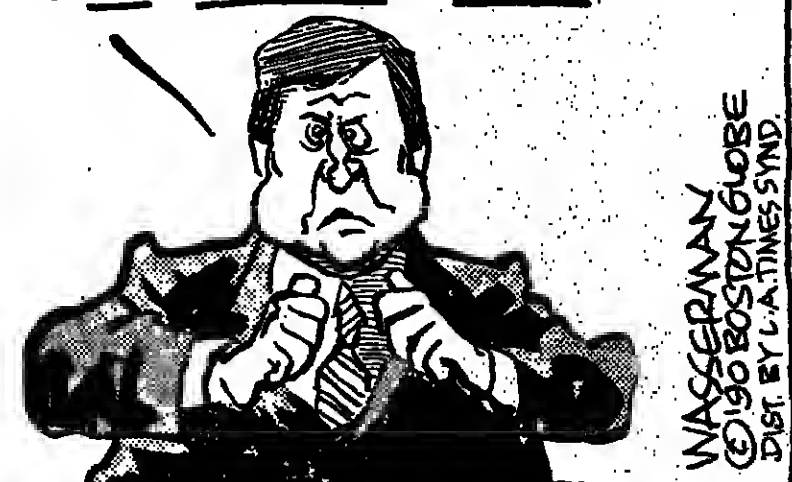
HE'S GIVEN UP HIS PARTY'S MONOPOLY... AND ALL OF THIS IS GOOD.



HE'S GIVEN UP HIS ARMY'S ADVENTURES



... PROVIDED I DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP MY DISTRICT'S BASES!



WASSERMAN
© 1990 BOSTON GLOBE
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Prosperity eludes Gorby

Freedom and reform abound

MOSCOW, (AP): Mikhail S. Gorbachev promised the people a better deal and has brought them far greater freedom during five years in power, but the shortages and discomforts that make daily life a struggle have grown worse.

"The main thing is to make life better for people," he told a Western interviewer a few months after becoming Communist Party chief in March 1985.

"There is no goal more important to us."

Five years later, the Soviet Union and its former Eastern European satellites enjoy a stunning degree of democracy.

Gorbachev has eased the fear of war. He has freed political prisoners from jails and psychiatric hospitals. Little remains of communism in the Communist Party's new platform, and the party no longer enjoys unquestioned authority.

In the matters of personal comfort most important to the average citizen, however, Gorbachev has not delivered.

Food, housing and consumer goods are in even shorter supply than when he took command of the Kremlin. Nearly half the people questioned in a poll published this month said daily existence was harder than in 1985.

"Five years later, the drudgery of renewal continues, and isn't yet close to its objectives," commented the pro-reform Moscow News recently.

Gorbachev's economic programme has been a series of mistakes and half-measures. He has delayed painful but critically needed steps such as reforming a price structure that has no relation to costs and wastes resources.

Farmers

Only in the last several weeks have legislators approved new laws allowing farmer to lease land, and letting individuals own means of production such as factories. But even ardent supporters of the laws say they do not go far enough.

Meat, butter and other foods are rationed in many places. In Moscow, a city of 9 million people, 1.25 million are on waiting lists for better apartments.

Jewels of imperial architecture are crumbling. Repairmen and snowplows seem to have vanished.

Gorbachev knows it. In a speech to the Communist Party Central Committee a month ago, the Soviet leader acknowledged "further disruptions of the consumer market, a growth in shortages and queues, and a fall in the purchasing power of the ruble."

"We hoped to mount the peak of the crisis in 1989, but recent events have shown that there has been no change for the better," he said.

On March 11, 1985, when Gorbachev followed the old, ailing leadership that had presided for two decades, there was much that needed fixing.

His predecessors left a nation near bankruptcy, its infrastructure worn out and people dispirited. It had plenty of missiles, but no hot water in two-thirds of the rural hospitals.

In the repressive Soviet Union of 1985, however, few dared openly say anything was wrong.

Gorbachev changed that. Under the banner of glasnost, or openness, he has introduced greater official honesty and an improved intellectual life.

Last year, he installed the beginnings of democracy with the first competitive elections and first working Parliament in 70 years. In February, he won agreement from the Communist Party leadership for a multiparty system.

Newspapers and television, which once provided endless paeans to the sacrifices of World War II soldiers and hero labourers, have been transformed.

The Iron Curtain has disintegrated. Once-forbidden books have been published, including Alexander Solzhenitsyn's "The Gulag Archipelago."

In 1990, it is expected that 8 million Soviet citizens will visit the outside world, where Gorbachev has had his greatest success and may be more popular than at home.

Reformers across Eastern Europe attributed their courage to act, and their success, to the Soviet leader's promise of non-interference and his indications that the time for change had arrived.

By setting the satellites free and agreeing with the United States to eliminate medium-range missiles, he helped lessen the danger of war. Nato has reduced border patrols, recognising the diminishing risk of an attack by the Warsaw Pact.

On the horizon are treaties on reducing long-range nuclear weapons by 50 per cent and withdraw-

ing hundreds of thousands of US and Soviet soldiers from Central Europe.

Even Soviet leaders more conservative than Gorbachev regard such achievements with pride.

"We have lifted the real threat of nuclear war," said Yegor K. Ligachev, the leading conservative in the Politburo, when asked by reporters March 4 to name the successes of Gorbachev's five years.

"We were on the brink," he said. "One step more, and we could have found ourselves in a nuclear catastrophe."

Regional and ethnic tensions are another matter. Ethnic conflicts have taken 300 lives in two years and nationalism arising from the new political freedom threatens to dismember the Soviet Union.

Lithuanians talk of declaring independence this year.

Activists Kazimieras Uoka told the Lithuanian Review the Soviet Union was so sick that, "by summer, the situation in Russia will be such that our secession will be hardly noticeable."

Gorbachev responded to the threat of anarchy by seeking strong new presidential powers, including the right to declare war and suspend legislatures in the 15 republics.

After local and regional elections on March 4, he

told reporters the new powers were necessary because "stability and order" were breaking down. He said disintegration of the Soviet Union would be a greater upheaval than China's Cultural Revolution of a generation ago.

Radical

But progressive parliamentarian Yuri Afanasyev, who is forming a more radical opposition to Gorbachev, said the Soviet leader's problem is not a shortage of power, but of trust.

"Nobody listens," Afanasyev said in a television interview. He said Gorbachev talks about the basic problem, of the need to transform a highly centralised empire into a voluntary union of independent nations. But he has yet to act on the promise.

Misgivings are increased by the fact that Gorbachev has promised legal guarantees of human rights, limits on Communist Party power and fully competitive democracy for nearly two years, but has not translated the pledges into law.

Many citizens were shocked by his nationally televised, finger-wagging tirade against progressives who denounced the proposal as dangerously close to dictatorship.

Whatever his powers, the hardest part of Gorbachev's job lies ahead.

Chronology of events

MOSCOW, (AP): Following are the major events that shaped the life and career of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev:

Mar. 2, 1931 — Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev is born in Privolnoye, a rural town in the Stavropol region of southern Russia.

1950 — Enrolls at Moscow State University in Moscow to study law.

1952 — Becomes a full member of the Communist Party and becomes active in Komosomol, the party's youth organisation.

1954 — Marries fellow student Raisa Maximovna Tiorenko.

1955 — Returns to Stavropol and begins full time Komosomol work.

1960 — Appointed first secretary of Stavropol regional Komosomol.

1966 — Promoted to head the party organisation in the city of Stavropol and three years later is elevated to full membership in the National Communist Party Central Committee.

1971 — Made a deputy of the nation's then-nominal Parliament, the Supreme Soviet.

1978 — Appointed Central Committee secretary in charge of agriculture and moves to Moscow.

1979 — Named a candidate, or non-voting member of the ruling Politburo headed by president Leonid I. Brezhnev.

1980 — Elevated to full membership in Politburo.

Mar. 11, 1985 — Named general secretary of the Communist Party following the death of Konstantin U. Chernenko.

Nov. 1985 — Meets with US president Ronald Reagan for the first time in Geneva. Over the next five years, the Soviet President holds four summits with Reagan.

1986 — Launches his reform programme in earnest, using the catchwords "glasnost," meaning openness and self-criticism, and "perestroika," the Russian word for restructuring. Frees dissident Andrei D. Sakharov from internal exile.

1987 — Travels to Washington to meet with Reagan and signs a treaty to eliminate both sides' medium-range nuclear weapons.

1988 — Calls the first Communist Party conference since the days of Josef Stalin to press for more radical reform. In December, presides over the dissolution of the Supreme Soviet, to be replaced by the Congress of People's Deputies and a smaller full-time legislature, the new Supreme Soviet.

1989 — Withdraws Soviet troops from Afghanistan and presides over Congress of People's Deputies that elects him president.

1990 — Ends Communist Party monopoly on political power and moves to create a stronger presidency.

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The record speaks

MOSCOW, (AP): Here is a look at Mikhail S. Gorbachev's record since becoming Soviet leader on Mar. 11, 1985.

Foreign policy

— Declared policy of non-intervention in Eastern Europe, permitting a wave of revolutions that deposed mid-style communist regimes, broke down the Berlin wall and set the stage for German reunification.

— Dramatically reduced fears of a nuclear war or Soviet attacks on Europe or China.

— Cut the defence budget and declared a unilateral reduction in forces of 500,000 troops and 10,000 tanks.

— Informally agreed with the United States to destroy medium-range missiles and try for a second treaty in 1990 cutting long-range nuclear weapons by 50 per cent.

— Brought home the 115,000 Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

— Switched foreign policy from struggle with capitalist countries to cooperation in fulfilling "universal human values," such as the desire for peace and a better life.

— Stimulated negotiations to settle conflicts in Angola, Namibia, Cam-

hodia, Nicaragua.

— Introduced competitive elections in 1989, won agreement from the Communist Party leadership to end its constitutional monopoly on power.

— Proposed broad new presidential powers, including the right to suspend republic legislatures.

— Promised legal guarantees of a freer press, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion and the right to a fair trial.

— Freed hundreds of political prisoners and ended persecution for political views.

— Virtually opened the borders, but has not produced promised law on free exit and entry.

— Failed to improve the daily life of ordinary Soviets, as shortages have worsened and inflation and rationing have increased, delayed needed reform of Soviet prices, which have no relation to costs and waste scarce resources.

— Won Communist Party leaders' acceptance of private ownership of factories.

— Won parliamentary approval of leasing land to individuals, with the right of inheritance, but refused to legalise private ownership of land.

— Eased foreign investment through

joint ventures.

— Legalised small private business cooperatives, but did not guarantee adequate, legal sources of supplies.

— Revealed the long-secret Soviet budget deficit, which this year reached 90 billion roubles (\$10 billion at the official rate of exchange).

— Permitted independence movements to develop in the Baltics and the Caucasus.

— Sent tens of thousands of Soviet troops on peacekeeping duties in the republics but could not halt ethnic and nationalist conflicts that killed over 300 people in the past two years.

— Failed to halt official corruption and the soaring rate of violent crime.

— Adopted the cause of environmentalists, but succeeded in doing little so far to improve polluted air, water and land.

— Promised dramatic increase in housing but has achieved no visible results.

— Slashed alcohol production to reduce alcoholism at a cost to the treasury of billions of roubles, much of which went to black marketers.

— Campaign did succeed in altering public attitude toward drunkenness from amused acceptance to condemnation.

Letters to the editor

ISP students' plight

SIR: I would like to draw prompt attention of the management of International School of Pakistan towards a serious and sensitive issue.

1. It is very straining as well as shocking that the regular students of the Pakistan International School have appeared as external students, in the secondary school annual examination conducted by the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad as the management, despite striving hard, has badly failed to get the affiliation of Islamabad board.

The matriculation certificate is the only testimonial which shows date of birth of a student and is presented everywhere for further higher studies.

Just visualise the plight of a successful student who will be conferred on a certificate without showing the name of the school he attended for 10 years.

2. The school management has already advertised admission notice for the new academic year without clearly stating up to which class.

It means there is something wrong in the bottom and the management has read the writing on the wall. It looks they could not get Islamabad board's affiliation for the forthcoming examination. Is it so? We request the management to clarify and not keep the parents and students in dark, and we mean it.

3. In short, we would like to suggest the school management to operate the school up to 8th class only as it is beyond their approach to get the school affiliated with the Federal Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Islamabad.

The management is requested to sacrifice financial gains for the future of the "children of today who will be the citizens of tomorrow."

Mrs Shahida Siddiqui, Kuwait.

ALL Letters to the Editor must contain the writer's name and address. Publication is at the discretion of the Editor and letters are subject to the editing process for space or other reasons.

Alert for an unwanted war

BARAMULLA, India, (AP): An estimated 240,000 Indian soldiers backed by armour and air cover are stationed in Kashmir, ready to battle Pakistan in the event of a war both sides say they are trying to avoid.

A provocation or a miscalculation sparked by the Muslim insurgency in the Indian-ruled part of Kashmir risks turning the disputed mountains and valleys into a war zone for the third time since 1947.

Kashmir is claimed by both India and Pakistan, uneasy neighbours whose independence from Britain has been marred by violence for four decades because their Hindu and Muslim populations haven't been able to live in peace.

Clashes

On the Indian side of the 41-year-old ceasefire line, more than 170 people have died in the past seven weeks in clashes between Kashmiri Muslim secessionists and the predominantly Hindu Indian army and paramilitary troops.

"Militarily speaking, it is a near-war scenario. Both sides are ready," a retired Indian infantry officer said in Srinagar, speaking on condition of anonymity. "But the irony of the situation is that both sides, on political platforms, claim day after day that they do not want war."

In Baramulla, a major Indian army base and the last town before the India-Pakistan ceasefire line, the scene resembles one out of a World War II movie.

Long convoys of army trucks and artillery draped with tarpaulins head to the frontier. Soldiers in battle fatigues practice ground advance tactics. Live rifle rounds are fired at targets.

Baramulla is 40 kilometres (24 miles) from the frontier — and the Pakistani Army.

"The military activity you see here is more or less normal," said Cheung Phunsog, chief civilian administrator of the two strategic border districts of Baramulla and Kupwara.

War

"I do not know if a war is in the cards, but if we are drawn into it, the other side will not find us lacking," he said.

A Pakistani Defence Ministry spokesman in Islamabad said there has been a build-up of Indian troops along the frontier. "We think it is primarily for internal security, but it can always be used (against Pakistan) once it's there," he said. Under standing briefing regulations, the spokesman cannot be identified.

Indian military sources said the number of troops deployed in Jammu-Kashmir, the only Indian state with a Muslim majority, has swelled from 150,000 a few months ago to about 240,000.

Since the Indian crackdown on the Kashmiri separatists began Jan. 20, at least three border incidents have taken place.

The most serious occurred Feb. 5, when about 4,000 Pakistani civilians attempted to cross the border to support their Muslim brethren in Indian-governed Kashmir. Indian troops opened fire, killing as many as 10 Pakistani civilians, according to Indian newspapers.

The first India-Pakistan war was in 1948. It officially ended with the declaration of a United Nations-sponsored ceasefire in January 1949.

Since then, Kashmir has been divided between mostly Hindu India and predominantly Muslim Pakistan.

Gains

The second war over Kashmir, in 1965, lasted 16 days and ended with no real gains for either side.

BLONDIE By Dick Young & Stan Drake



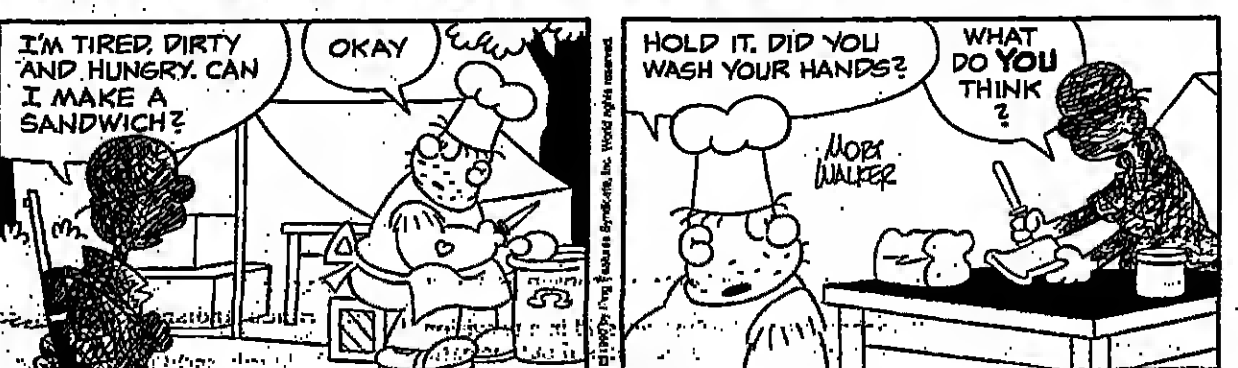
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



AGATHA CRUHN



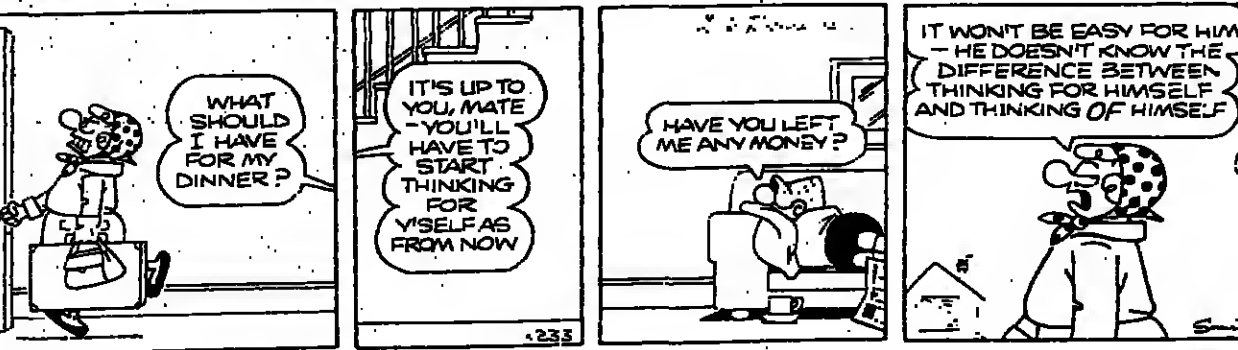
BEETLEBAILEY



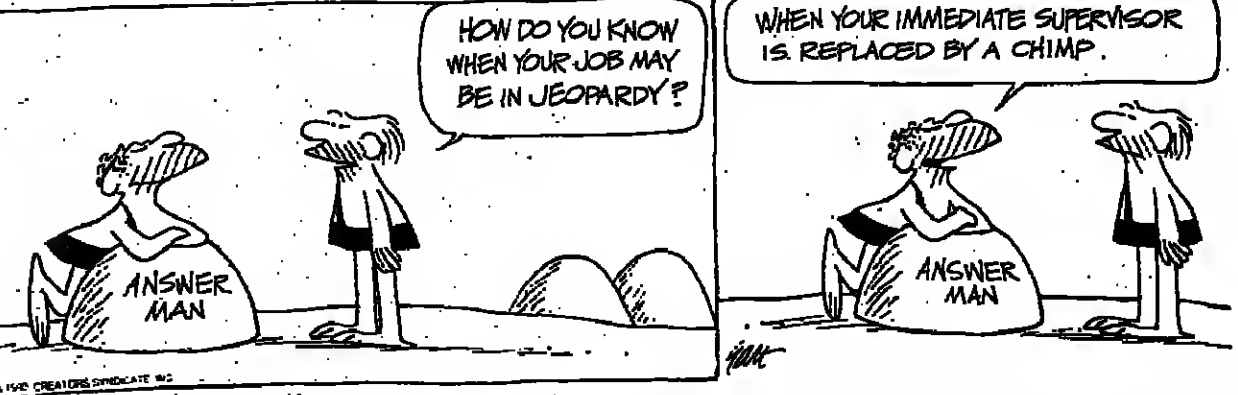
THE WIZARD OF ID By Grant Parker & Johnnie Lee



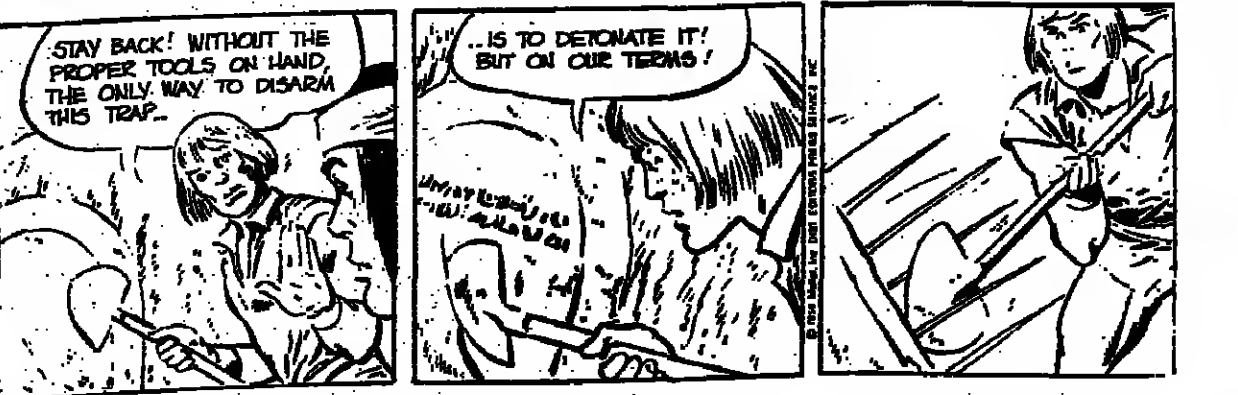
ANDY CAPP



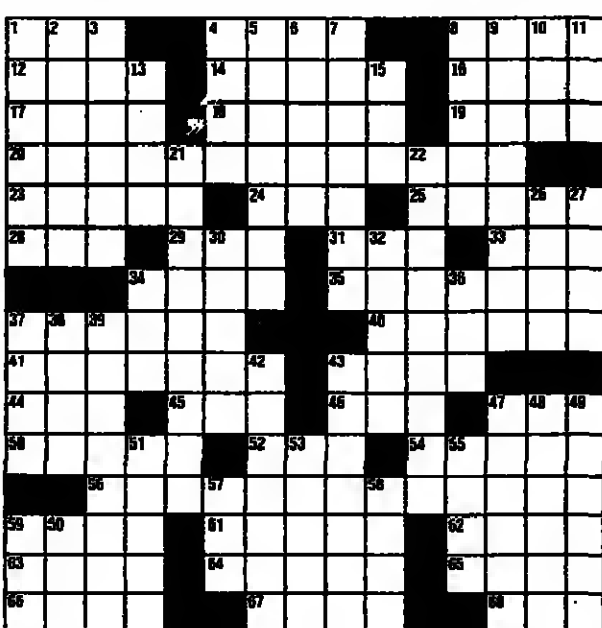
B.C. By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN By G. Fenton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- 1 After A
 - 4 Church section
 - 8 Norse capital
 - 12 Neutrical direction
 - 14 Orange or Lefty
 - 16 Fog and emoke
 - 17 Alight
 - 18 Romeo and Juliet
 - 19 Detective
 - 20 Spade end nemesekes
 - 21 Palindromic edvice
 - 23 Omni, e.g.
 - 24 Type of curve
 - 25 Sniggler
 - 28 German article
 - 29 Second notes
 - 31 Mil. gp. on call
 - 33 DDE's command
 - 34 Enfant terrible
 - 35 Palindromic parental put-down
 - 37 Toppie
 - 40 Mortar companion
 - 41 Palindromic muscle
 - 43 — and get it!
 - 44 Syr. neighbor
 - 45 "A Chorus Line" song
 - 46 Money in 8 Across
 - 47 Proscribe
 - 50 Cut
 - 52 TCU rival
 - 54 Ingenious
 - 56 Palindromic query
 - 59 Twins
 - 61 Knobbed
 - 62 Editor's note
 - 63 Memorable cartoonist Pater
 - 64 — Doctrine:
- DOWN**
- 1 Love song
 - 2 Actress Trevor
 - 3 Singer John
 - 4 Culture lead-in
 - 5 Sit-in
 - 6 Palindromic flights
 - 7 Ties
 - 8 Actor Davis
 - 9 "There's not the — orb..."
 - 10 Herbert of films
 - 11 Watch comms.
 - 13 Land west of Nod
 - 15 Japan or Siam follower
 - 21 Voice-over people
 - 22 Payment, in Paris
 - 26 Handy abbr.
 - 27 Will Rogers prop
 - 30 Shirley of films
 - 32 Flavor
 - 34 Meude portreyar
 - 38 Peer's mom
 - 37 "Exodus" author
 - 38 Nibble
 - 39 Scattering
 - 42 Put back
 - 43 "F Troop" fort
 - 47 Cut in two
 - 48 King Arthur's resting place
 - 49 Staircase features
 - 51 Homer king
 - 53 Palindromic term of address
 - 55 Assistant
 - 57 NYC subway
 - 58 Baseball family name
 - 59 — de deux
 - 60 Actress Meyers

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

AIRCH POOLAI SAKI
COLA ADORE AMIN
ROOSEVELT ISLAND
ESP MISSY HANDY
BINS TIM
HELLGATE BRIDGE
GURDY ETAT OLE
AGAR ASTER PIER
RET ALTO CANDY
BROOKLYN BRIDGE
KEY RIGS
SHOAL AMEGA MOD
TAPPANZIE BRIDGE
ALAI MAIZE SLAM
RELS INNER TIME

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
WATCH THOSE SPOTS

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 5
♥ A 7 4
♦ A K Q 8 2
♣ 9 6

WEST
♠ A K Q 7 3
♥ 9
♦ J 7 6 3
♣ K 10 7

EAST
♠ 9 4 2
♥ J 10 8 3
♦ 5
♣ 8 5 4 3 2

SOUTH
♠ 10 6
♥ K Q 6 5 2
♦ 10 9 4
♣ A Q J

The bidding:
South 1♥, West 1♠, North 2♦, East Pass.
South 2♥, West Pass, North 3♥, East Pass.
Opening lead: King of ♠.

The average player looks no further than his aces and kings. The expert takes considerable pains over his spotcards as well. We would bet that 99 percent of declarers would fail in their heart game because of not realizing how important a card dummy's eight of diamonds is.

The auction was routine. Giveo normal breaks the contract would have presented no difficulty. As it was it required superb technique by South to succeed.

The defenders started with three

rounds of spades, declarer ruffing the last. South carefully led the ten of diamonds to the queen, then returned to hand with the queen of trumps to lead the nine of diamonds, going up with the king. Since he had a sure trump trick West refused to ruff, but declarer's careful preparatory work now paid off handsomely.

After coming to hand with the king of trumps, declarer led a diamond and took the marked finesse of the eight. East had no recourse. If the defender refused to ruff declarer would simply continue diamonds until East did, and the ace of hearts would still be in dummy as an entry to any uncashed diamonds.

So East did as well as possible by ruffing and shifting to a club. Declarer was not tempted. After shooting up with the ace, South crossed to the ace of hearts and cashed the good diamonds, discarding two clubs from hand.

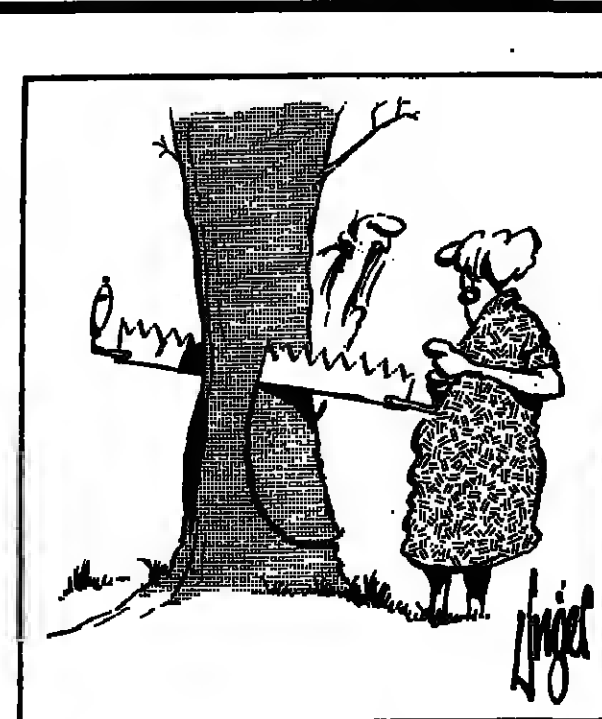
Note that had South not unblocked both the ten and nine of diamonds East could defeat the contract by refusing to ruff the third round of the suit. Declarer would be in hand and would be an entry short to take advantage of the high diamonds. Alternatively, East could ruff the second round of diamonds and the suit would be blocked.



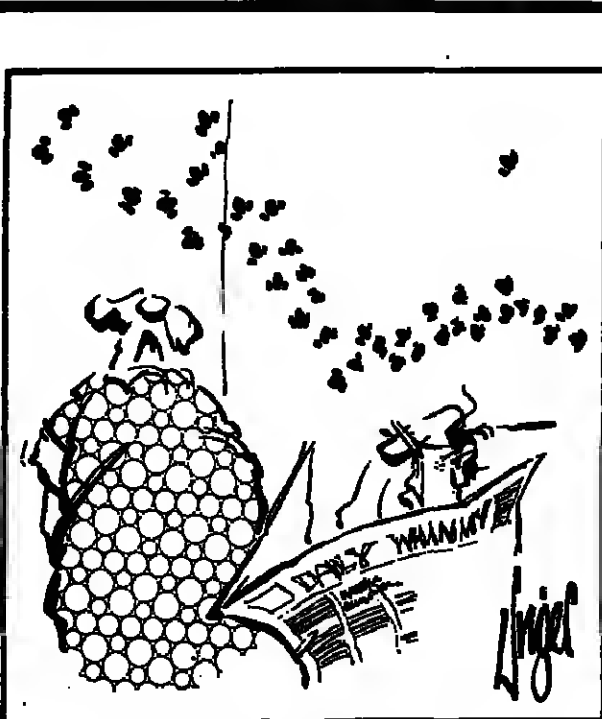
"Who put in that crown?"

YOUR STARS

<p>Aries March 21 - April 20</p> <p>If you do not beware you are likely to make yourself ridiculous. Check your facts or you will make a grave mistake. Do not allow your emotions to rule but do not repress them either. Be considerate.</p>	<p>Cancer June 21 - July 20</p> <p>Try to take your mind off work for the day. Seek to make the most of what you have instead of always bemoaning what you had not got. Take a little more regular but none too violent exercise. Be punctual.</p>	<p>Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22</p> <p>You will be proved right but you should not say "I told you so": you could as easily have been wrong. You will be able to do something to please your partner and should do so. Avoid acting on impulse and do not rely on guesswork. Be sincere.</p>	<p>Capricorn Dec 21 - Jan 19</p> <p>You are all too liable to act on impulse and should try to restrain yourself. Something you have been learning will now become much easier to apply, but you must not relax your efforts, a lot remains to be learnt. Be flexible.</p>
<p>Taurus April 21 - May 20</p> <p>Avoid doing your own repairs unless you really know what you are about. Everything looks a little bleak but the outlook is fair. Do not be late if you have been invited. Be fair.</p>	<p>Leo July 21 - Aug 20</p> <p>Make sure you do not keep others waiting. You will not realize until after what a lucky escape you have had. Make sure you do not eat or drink more than you know you should and vary your diet. Be moderate.</p>	<p>Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22</p> <p>A temptation to do the first things that comes to mind must be firmly resisted. Limits whether of speed or of propriety should be adhered to. If you have made a promise be sure to keep it. Be tolerant.</p>	<p>Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19</p> <p>You will be able to avail yourself of a good opportunity only if you are decisive and fast. Avoid straining your eyes but also try not to become too dependant on glasses. Do not take any risks when on the road, walking or driving. Be versatile.</p>
<p>Gemini May 21 - June 20</p> <p>You are likely to feel at your best and should try to take it easy for a while. Your lucky numbers are 12 and 35. Make sure you get enough exercise but nothing too exhausting. Do not pretend to be what you know you are not. Be accurate.</p>	<p>Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22</p> <p>You will not feel very energetic but you must not become lethargic. Something you had hoped would come to pass. However something you also hoped would happen will not. Be responsive.</p>	<p>Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22</p> <p>You should make sure you do not take any undue risks with your health. However nor should you think that everything you do is bad for your health. Avoid all kinds of exaggeration and do not go to extremes. Be generous.</p>	<p>Pisces Feb 21 - March 20</p> <p>Something you had hoped would happen but it will prove to be a little disappointing. Never mind, it might have been a lot worse. Avoid telling others precisely what you think of them. Be more patient.</p>



"You're supposed to be holding it straight!"



"The dog ate a whole bag of chili powder."

SNIPPETS

PAL now serving Iloilo, Bacolod: Philippine Airlines introduced Boeing 737-300 service to Iloilo and Bacolod, bringing to eight the domestic points where the brand new aircraft replaces the aging BAC One Eleven jets.

The B737s will operate Manila Iloilo four times daily and Manila-Bacolod also four times daily.

In ceremonies at Iloilo's Mandurriao Airport, PAL executive vice-president Leslie Espino will present B737 models to Mayor Rodolfo Guanzon and Gov. Simplicio Grino.

In Bacolod, PAL president Dante G. Santos will present aircraft models to Mayor Alfredo Montelibano and Gov. Daniel Lacson Jr. Invited to the Iloilo inaugural flight are Reps. Rafael Lopez Vito, Oscar Garcia, Alberto Lopez, Narciso Monfort and Neil Tupas.

Expected to join the Bacolod inaugural flight are Transportation Secretary Oscar Orbes, Reps. Romeo Guanzon, Manuel Puey, Jose Carlos Lacson, Edward Matti, Mariano Yulo and Hortencia Starke.

Widow arrested for selling dope: A widow of an alleged pusher was arrested for selling marijuana to a policeman in Sampaloc, Manila.

Marilou de guzman, 30, of 560 Gov. Forbes St, Sampaloc, was held by Cpl Robert Ruiz right after she handed marijuana worth P250 to him.

Police led by Capt. Cresencio Cabasal found a kilo of marijuana and the marked P250 in the widow's belongings.

Casal said De Guzman was about to deliver the marijuana to Ermita when Ruiz spotted her at the corner of M dela Fuente St and Espana.

Casal said Ruiz posed as an addict and convinced the woman to sell a few grammes of marijuana to him.

De Guzman told police she was forced to sell marijuana to feed her children. "Wala na akong ibang alay na paraan para buhayin ang mga anak ko kaya ko ito nagawa," she said.

Fake BIR man nabbed: A man posing as a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) agent was arrested by Manila policemen in a snack house in Sampaloc recently.

Juanito Natividad, 63, of 8 Geronimo St, Novaliches, Quezon City was about to leave the Cindy's Fastfood and Hamburger House when police accosted him. Recovered from Natividad were a fake BIR identification card in the name of Lauro Mariano, a BIR mission order signed by a certain Jose Medina, tax fraud division chief, and a .38 revolver.

Lieut. Generoso Javier said Natividad admitted he was a fake BIR agent.

'Impartial treatment for schools': Education Secretary Isidro Carino ordered all top education officials to grant "impartial treatment" to all private colleges and universities.

In a still unnumbered DECS memorandum, Carino directed the officials to assist and accommodate the requests of all private colleges and universities.

The memorandum was addressed to undersecretaries, assistant secretaries, bureau directors, school superintendents, vocational technical heads and school superintendents and administrators.

Workers can file tax returns in embassies: The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) Commissioner Jose Ong Jr allowed vacationing contract workers to file their income tax returns in any of the agencies in regional offices nationwide.

Contract workers can only file income tax returns in Philippine embassies or consulates abroad or in the central office in Quezon City. Ong instructed regional directors to use the bank rate in converting foreign currency to peso.

Tax fraud exposed: Six thousand flea market vendors in Bacalaran have defrauded the government of some P50 million in taxes last year, a Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) source told *People's Journal*.

The market stalls are allegedly in the names of the members of three market syndicates who have leased them to different vendors.

The syndicates also collected sales taxes from the vendors but the money was not remitted to the BIR, the source said.

The BIR cannot run after the vendors because the stalls are not in their names and everyday different vendors were occupying the stalls, the source said.

Missing with P1.074m: A club owner in Makati was reported to the police to be missing since Jan 29, 1990 with P74,000 and a check for P1 million.

Rogelio A. Garcia, 36, owner of Pic Club at about 11 pm of Jan 29, together with Hisao Tanigawa, a Japanese and former part owner of the establishment, Garcia has not been seen since.

Garcia's wife Rosario, 35, told Makati police that she had talked to Tanigawa after Jan 29 but the Japanese told her he did not know where her husband was.

Rattan boat caught: Batangas City — A motorised vessel loaded with about 100 kilos of split rattan, believed to be from Occidental Mindoro, was apprehended by Philippine Coast Guard men in the coastal barangay of Sambal in Lemery, Batangas.

Coast Guard chief Commo. Pio H. Garrido, in his report to Navy chief Rear Admiral Carlito Y. Cunanan, said that Antonio Arle Jr of Abra de Ilog, Occidental Mindoro, owner of *M/V Marjessa*, was unable to present necessary documents to transport rattan when asked by a coast guard patrol team.

The cutting, transporting or importation of rattan, an endangered specie of plant and weatherbeaten wood used in furniture making and grown only in Southeast Asia and some tropical countries, has been restricted.

Women abused in city jail: Cebu City, PNA — Cebu military and police authorities said they are looking into reported sexual abuse of female inmates at the Cebu City jail.

The scandal was exposed by *The Freeman*, a Cebu-based daily which reported that some female inmates were asked by some guards to sleep with them.

This was denied by jail superintendent Capt. Benjamin Miaga.

A television station ran a footage of a 20-year-old inmate who alleged she was forced to have sex with some male inmates several times since December 1989.

She did not say if jail guards were also involved. A leader of the inmates allegedly acted as pimp and collected P10 from the man every time she was used, she said.

She was taken to a hospital for chills and fever and was found positive for gonorrhea, hospital physicians said.

City police chief Major Benjamin Gador said he has ordered an investigation.

Judge, court clerk accused of graft: A trial court judge and a clerk of court were criminally charged before the Sandiganbayan for allegedly demanding P10,000 from a person who has a pending ejectment case before his sala in exchange for a favourable decision.

Charged with violation of the Anti-graft and Corrupt Practices Act were Binan, Laguna Municipal Trial Court Judge Arturo Juliano and Renato Vera Cruz.

Special prosecution officer Luz Quinones-Marcos charged that Juliano delayed the promulgation of the court decision on the motion filed by the plaintiff who wanted to withdraw back rentals in the amount of P10,000 deposited by the defendant without sufficient justification but to obtain pecuniary advantage for themselves.

Prosecutor Marcos said that on Feb 5, 1985, Juliano rendered a decision on the ejectment case in favour of the plaintiff but without any pronouncement as to the payment of back rentals.

Despite the petition of plaintiff to include the payment of back rentals, Juliano did not include it and only changed his decision after the plaintiff agreed to give P10,000.

Missile kills boy: A boy in Tayabas, Quezon was killed after a grenade launcher missile he and two others were toying with exploded.

Killed by shrapnel wounds were Dante Gonzales, 12, of Bgy Malana.

His playmates Profrino Cantos and Reynaldo Azorina were in serious condition when taken to Quezon Memorial Hospital in Lucena City.

Gonzales' father Eufonio said the boys found the missile while playing.

They were losing and catching the missile when it fell to the ground and exploded.

Investigators theorised that rebel soldiers might have left the missile behind during the last December's aborted coup.

Resolution number 40 on early elections

PROPOSED Senate Resolution No. 40 and its treatment showed up the uninformed and unenlightened commentary one finds in the media. The measure calls for earlier national elections (now set for May 11, 1992).

Sen. Ernie Maceda had originally filed it as sole author. But Aquino, Boy Herrera and I agreed to co-author it, when later asked. Before I agreed, however, I told Manong Ernie that I would bat for a January, 1992 election with the term of the winners to commence on February 25, 1992. That should get it past the military base agreement issue which would be resolved definitively in 1991.

Where is the "snap" in an election two years away?

I have never felt comfortable with the four-month bonus of President Cory and Vice-President Doy. They were legitimately elected only to a term of six years, to end on February 25, 1992. The free ride of up to June 30, 1992 was given in 1987, when the Constitution was ratified and the bonus came on piggyback.

Why was their term extended? Precisely, because, it was thought that on May 11, 1992 we could save by having a single, simultaneous and synchronized election, from the President down to the municipal officials; and 2) we would reduce political activity.

That is why the thrust of the resolution was to de-synchron-

ise, de-clog and de-congest the 1992 elections. But Nietzsche has said that forgetting purposes is the most common form of stupidity.

I submit that if we are faithful to the Constitution, we cannot break up the May 11, 1992, election without amending the basic law. Otherwise, the extension of the term of the President and the Vice president would be senseless.

Of course, the Supreme Court may choose to disregard the clear intent of the Constitutional Commission — as may be seen in the Con-Com debates — and the sovereign people; it error would then become the law of the land. It's been known to happen. Social engineering, judicial

statesmanship, etc., see?

As early as January 1988, I identified the jammed 1992 elections problem and filed my Concurrent Resolution No. 10 to look into the matter.

Why not lengthen the terms of the local officials? Again, the Constitution does not seem to allow it.

Even an early election for municipal officials would create the spectre of lame ducks serving for too long before their constitutional term ends on June 30, 1992. And we would have a long "holiday" of politics, politics, politics. And why punish those who were elected the last, only in 1988?

Why not shorten then the terms of the President, and the Vice President? We are not strictly speaking, going to do that. We will just honour the original understanding of six years, no more, no less.

And Congress, which is looking into the dilemma, would look more credible if its members would shorten their terms and sacrifice, (personally, any reasonable and peaceful Early Retirement Programme for me I can accept and live with).

Our motives as co-authors of Resolution No. 40 were questioned, which was the "most unkind act of all." Even those who have been taking of the need to amend the Constitution suddenly said that it would be "inkering," as if doing something the very same Constitution allows is wrong. (It does not allow any amendment by the people themselves through a popular initiative for five years from 1987; therefore, the mode of constituent assembly or a con-



stitutional convention is allowed so as to improve upon an imperfect work put together very quickly in 1986.)

And yet, I have since modified my views. Maybe it is not true that the three-year term ballot which would require 20 minutes for the average voter to fill up would present overwhelming problems. Maybe less than ten hours for voting would be needed after all. Maybe canvassing would not take two days.

But, here, I may celebrate cynicism.

In the 1992 election for Senators, you see, the top 12 will serve for six years and the bottom 12, three. I predict that even teammates will be like so many

scorpions in a bottle. Their supporters won't vote for other members. 48 to 51 names may not be written down; these could not be cut by half. I don't know though if the canvass will still be long (quite possibly, as people will have varied choices, even when junking bets).

The bottom line is that I cannot see how one can separate the 1992 elections, without violating, thwarting and subverting the 1987 Constitution, which aims to have a single, simultaneous and synchronized election, to cut down on expenses and politics.

What the sovereign people and the lofty Constitution put together, let no mere man's ordinary statute put asunder.



Ongpin and Velasquez

APA Ongpin hurriedly entered the studio with sincere apologies. "I'm sorry I'm late, it was traffic," he said. He was dressed in simple slacks, a short-sleeved shirt, and a PRES ID flashing up front.

Just recently, he left his newscasting stint for the more challenging assistant editor position in a leading newspaper. "I really started out as a newspaper writer. Even in college, I was already writing for different newspapers. So this is nothing new to me. I also try to keep my presence in broadcast by coming out in *Cave Bravo*."

Apa felt that his potentials as a newscaster has reached its limit, and so, "under certain circumstances I decided to move on to something that could make me develop further."

"I'm really a writer, and so I'm enjoying my work now. I even take my own pictures and I can do layouts for an entire newspaper."

Twenty-five year old Apa Ongpin graduated with a degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from the Ateneo. He took a lot of film and broadcast subjects, his real interest being film-making. He dreams of becoming a film director someday.

"Being a director was the first thing in my mind when I started out in media. Even before I graduated, I was working with Marilou Diaz-Abaya in 'Sic o' Clock news' as a production trainee. I also joined Che Lazo in *Probe*, when it was still at Channel 2. When it transferred to Channel 7, I decided to stick it out at ABS-CBN."

Not too long ago, Apa had an interesting offer to join Richard Gomez and Joey Marquez in the top-rated sitcom *Palibhaso Lakile*. Apa agreed to do the show but after taping a number of episodes, he received another offer to join the ABS-CBN news team. "Work became too hectic for me and I had to make a choice. I could not go on writing news and taping a sitcom at the same time. I decided to stick with the news because it is closer to what I really wanted. I never really considered a showbusiness career at that time."

Imagine his surprise when he started gaining popularity as a newscaster. "I joined news not for the exposure, thinking that newscasters were never really that popular. What I wanted was to get experience in covering political and economic issues. And newscasting, I think, gave me a pretty good background." At the same time, he considers it a form of recognition, to be known as a newscaster. He considers it a form of recognition, to be known as a newscaster. He considers it an acting job, which requires projection to deliver information well.

Now that he has more confidence in his abilities, Apa doesn't really mind joining the entertainment mind joining the entertainment business. "Some friends have told me that it would be better if I reserved a little anonymity for my own benefit. Well I'm still young and I think I have nothing to hide. Sure people recognize me, but they don't chase me around or mob me as if I were Richard Gomez or Gabby Concepcion."

Last year Apa had his own share of controversy when news broke out that he was romantically involved with actress Carmi Martin.

How did he handle it? "I don't even know if I handled it properly. Everybody's subjected to that kind of issue. In retrospect I cannot really say that I did a good job. For instance I felt that there was a need to be candid without exactly volunteering information. There wasn't a need to hold a press conference. She's a very private person and it's a personal relationship. But I was always asked about it and I didn't want to lie. The problem was that I never really avoided it that much."

Though Apa currently enjoys some privacy in a relatively quiet writing job, he intends to stay in the

entertainment business, and looks forward to some broadcast stints every now and then.

To polish his acting ability, he tries to attend workshops and brushes up on his Tagalog. The results should be evident in *The Other Woman* which he is doing for Regal Films opposite Alice Dixson and Lani Mercado.

Of pictorial partner Regine Velasquez, Apa gushes. "I admire her very much. I think that she's a tremendous talent. She's got a great advantage because she is starting out with better material. When I was still going to school, we didn't listen to OPM talents, I guess because the material wasn't as good. OPM music has really improved through the years. Regine is really a talent to look out for. She's so young and can really accomplish so much."

She sports a trendy boyish hair style. Sans makeup she could pass for a 15-year-old, a far cry from the sophisticated belter who doesn't fail to captivate the audience with her enormous lung power.

She spent most of her growing years joining amateur singing contests so that her family got used in her bringing home the bacon in their humble house in Balagtas, Bulacan.

"I've had it with singing contests! I feel like I've spent almost half of my life competing," Regine declares. Which was the reason why it took some encouragement before she finally agreed to represent the Philippines in the recently-concluded "Asia Pacific Singing Contest."

The contest gave Regine a chance to see Hong Kong amidst the bustling holiday season. On her first trip abroad, she was accompanied by her father, Gerry Velasquez, personal manager Joyce Villanueva and the sponsor of the trip, Antonio Barroero of GMA-7.

Regine was back in Manila with the Grand Prize on December 24, "just in time for Christmas," after which she presented her trophy to President Cory Aquino in Malacanang.

Regine recently completed her second long playing album, 1990, under Victor Recording Company. A magazine type album conceptualized by Regine herself, it is now available in the market.

Regine is also the sweet voice behind the Jo Mari Chan hit song "Please Be Careful With My Heart," a cut from Constant Change. Jo Mari's first album after six years. The record just turned triple platinum, which means that it has sold more than 120,000 copies. Its producer, Wua Records Bella Tan says it is on its way to quadruple platinum (160,000 in sales).

What is it like working with an ace musician like Jo Mari?

"It's F-U-N. In spite of his success, he has remained humble. *Parang hindi siya si Jo Mari, Kung umarte*, he is such a simple man."

"We're big fans of Jo Mari Chan, my mother and I. Favourite talaga namin siya, especially his 'Tell Me Your Name'."

Another favourite of Regine is Gary Valenciano. She admires him so much that she didn't mind doing back-up vocals for the song "Each Passing Night," from Gary V's latest LP *Faces of Love*. "I even told them that there was no need to include my name in the album."

Like most, 19-year olds, Regine has her own share of persistent gentlemen callers. "It's my father who entertains them when they visit. *Nahihiya kasi ako eh...* She does have her own secret crushes, a handful of lucky young men whom she considers "cute." From several sources, we gathered that Regine likes Jerry Cardinera, David Celidran and Apa Ongpin — not necessarily in that order.

In fact Regine has a picture with Apa in her new LP.

"Apa is the typical boy-next-door — a nice guy!" she blushes.

Can this be Shell?

SHELL fans can't believe their eyes. Is it really the PBA's former whipping boys, its bridesmaids, its also-rans that are now zooming their way to kingdom come?

If only their friends could see them now. Formula Shell has broken out of its Shell — in a manner of speaking. Where did it get all that glitz, all that smoothness, all that airtight defense?

It could be Bobby Parks. He's the most obvious variable that's been injected into the Shell brew. It could be Bobby's way of whipping up this team of former teammates and eager rookies. Could be the discipline and the new skills he's taught his men.

Bobby's dead serious about this coaching job. It's said he sent Shell no less than 50 different plays by mail when he was first informed he would coach the team. And the way Shell players are moving these days, it is clear that Bobby has upped and taught them some snazzy new tricks. Look what's happened to the Shell team!

Take note of them on the offensive. They're passing well, running well and spotting the open man with deadly accuracy. Suddenly there's communication. Everyone knows what everybody's doing. Players can anticipate what their teammates will do, where they're going to go.

See, Benjie Paras and Bobby Parks are sharing the load equally and opening up other guys for great opportunities. Arnie Tuedes supees intermittently from the perimeter or three-point country. Whoever's free goes for the goal or passes to someone with a better advantage. Basic basketball, yes. But deadly as well.

Look, Calvin Tuedes has ripened into a hell of a guard. Whoever is Calvin's prey has to bleed for his goals and his positive moves. Allan Caidic had an unbelievably low yield when he was designated Calvin Tuedes's man. Carillo Mejias was likewise defanged.

Leo Austria is back in action too and doing what he does best: running. Able directing play whenever Ronnie Magsanoc takes off his five-star pin, Leo Austria is showing us why his benching last year was one of the cardinal sins of Philippine basketball. Now he's recharged, revitalized Leo Austria.

And the rookies. Who would

have expected them to perform that well? They have effectively blended into the team. Jojo Martin, Richard Bognot and Aris Franco truly look like they belong.

Maybe it's the seminar the Shell players underwent last January. Remember that project that stranded them up in Baguio during the December Coup? Formula Shell management followed up on the unfinished business and completed the project at the Manila Peninsula a month after. One of the goals of that seminar was for Shell players to develop to their fullest potentials — physically, mentally, emotionally. It was a mind, body and spirit workout. It seems to complement the physical training so well.

Or perhaps Shell really did its homework-physically speaking. It was the first team out of the Third Conference race last year. It had ample time to prepare for the new decade. Remember the saying that goes: "When God closes a door, he opens a window? God opened a window for Shell by giving them the chance to practice early. While the other teams were just winding up their respective finals bids, Shell was already up and practicing for the next season. Even before the coup, Shell was deep into M.W.F practice sessions at the Ultra. Call that a good head start.

So now the results are in. You can see it in the perfect running game, the airtight defense, the help-defense. "If Shell plays this way forever, they can easily beat Purefoods and San Miguel," said one avid PBA aficionado. This observation is shared by many.

So far Shell has been the most consistent team in the PBA. It thrashed its first two opponents handily, and authoritatively. Shell took the perk out of presto in their first game and melted the Tivolis right there on the hard court. They took the fizzle out of Pepsi too as the Zoom Masters completely dominated the play from whistle time to huzzar sound.

Furthermore everybody — from top man agreement down to ball boy — seems to be in the go-go thrust. Assistant coach Arlene Rodriguez is actively coaching. He too has come out of his shell.

Shell chairman and PBA president, Rey Marquez, is cautious and a bit apprehensive

thought. "They might be peaking too early," he said. "We should have a long way to go."

But Shell team manager Charlie Favis is confident. "The still have a lot to show," he says. "You should see them at practice."

Will Shell continue to go away and bag the big prize this time? Bobby Parks, for one, sure hopes so. There is a reason for this: an impressive transformation. Everybody in the team is undergoing a learning process. It is not just a few Rodriguez and Caidic assistant-coaches, heretofore Callants, who are understudies of Bobby Parks. Everybody in the team is undergoing schooling-call it "technology transfer."

There is more to Shell's glitz than meets the eye. It didn't just happen overnight. It is the result of hard work, constant practice, and doing one's homework. It was borne out of the team's strong desire to get its piece of sky after suffering repeated, regular setbacks in its quest for glory.

Now it seems to have found the Formula. So who's to blame Shell for running to Bobby Parks for help after its history of failed expeditions? The man is both capable and unselfish (he is sharing what he knows with our local guys — a more efficient way to attend coaching school), and what counts is he's delivering the results.

For sure Shell and Bobby Parks will continue to reap the graces and attacks of the BCPA and people of similar thinking. But that they don't mind so long as Shell keeps on winning, it's their performance that counts, ultimately. And so far, so good. The Zoom Masters have finally seemed to find their bearings. Everything's in high gear.

AND OH YES! A lot of Shell fans are missing the presence of grizzled guard-forward, Jay Ramirez, on the court. Jay, who is known for his hard but spirited enforcing style, has been relegated to reserve status for the First Conference. Many Shell fans find this a pity. Jay has been one of the spark plugs and "old dependable" of the Shell team.

But Shell's emphasis now is ceiling-hence the present line-up. Don't worry though. Maybe Jay "Sanwitsis" Ramirez will be back for the All-Filipino — with a vengeance.

Peso stands firm against US dollar on CB manoeuvre

THE peso stands firm to the US dollar, thanks to the support of the Central Bank.

On a turnover of \$500,000, involving only the CB as seller and Interbank as buyer, the peso closed the day's trading at P22.70 to \$1 at the foreign exchange centre of the Bankers Association of the Philippines (BAP).

Foreign exchange traders however said the peso could show some signs of a renewed weakening next week should the present political situation continue to deteriorate.

Although the market has discounted the negative impact on the local currency of the detention of Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, who is facing charges of rebellion

and other alleged crimes, traders said successful "political events" stemming from this factor could exert undue pressures on the peso.

The peso had touched a low of P22.79 to the US dollar only to bounce back to its current exchange rate. The traders said this recovery, which they attributed mainly to the support being provided by the CB, "could prove temporary."

It was observed that the CB recently acquired a "psychological" advantage in its defense of the peso with the signing of the \$700-million commercial loan agreement with a syndicate of foreign banks, but "the CB will have to contend with the inherent weakness of the currency caused by such basic fundamentals as the deteriorating trade balance."

The story of Yana Mejia

Can souls of the dead return to Earth?

By Chic Fortich

CAN the soul of a dead child return to give consolation and joy to its bereaved parents? The answer, in the words of Yana Mejia, is a breezy "No sweat—Yes!"

Yana Mejia was a bright and happy 13-year-old. She was a student at St. Scholastica's College, who enjoyed regaling her parents, Oscar and Boots Mejia, with her musical talents.

One weekend, Oscar and Boots, Yana, her brothers, and cousins were on their way to SM City when a reckless driver crashed his Pasvil bus into their car.

Yana died in the hospital. Boots suffered a broken hip. The other children and Oscar got away with minor injuries.

The road back to recovery, for Boots, was fraught with pain and frustration. On top of her anguish at the loss of her child, there was the fruitless attempt to bring the errant driver and the bus company to justice.

But as soon as Boots could get into a wheelchair, she began reporting for work at the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, where she is vice-president for administration. Work, after all, is one of the best therapies for a personal agony.

When I first met her, she was already out of the chair and could walk with crutches—but no crutch could prop up her broken heart as she told me her story, hoping I could write about it and perhaps call the attention of the powers—that be so that the unscrupulous operators of the bus company would be brought to court.

Somehow I never got to write that story, and there were times when I felt a bit guilty as I came across my copy of Boots' complaint filed with the fiscal. Yet the story refused to gel.

Now I know why. The story wanted to have a happy ending. Change "happy" to "ecstatic" because that's the way Boots

feels now. Boots soon made the shift from crutches to cane, then to limping along by herself.

Then she got pregnant. Her doctor was furious. He had specifically warned her against that eventuality because her hip was still healing and might not be able to carry the burden of a child—and she might wind up in a wheelchair again.

But, except for the occasional pain after a tiring day, Boots didn't have much trouble all through her pregnancy, and her mood changed to hopefulness—especially after I "guessed" that her child would be a girl, a replacement for Yana.

So when the child came, they named her Ericka.

Not too long ago, while I was telling her about Frank Regis and his niece, Jinky, she asked me to find out from them if it was possible that the spirit of Yana had returned to her in the person of Ericka. Her instincts, or mother's intuition, gave her the feeling that her new baby was really Yana.

A few nights ago, while we were having dinner at MacDon-ald's on Greenbelt, Frank posed the question to Crissie, Jinky's crystal guide who lives in her crystal ball.

Crissie's answer was: "No sweat. Yes. She is back to continue her learning... No sweat."

We looked at each other, rather surprised by the slang expression but Crissie, like the other guides and masters, usually spoke very formal English.

The following day, I reported the happy news to Boots over the telephone. After I quoted the answer, I thought the line had gone dead because there was utter silence at the other end.

"Boots?" I said. "The answer is yes. It is Yana."

In a very small, choked voice, she said: "Yes! I know. I know it!"

I wondered how she could have known.

"Chic," she said, her voice a

bit more firm now. "That's the way she used to answer me. 'No sweat, Mommy!' You know how kids speak these days. 'No sweat, Mommy!'"

So that was why she couldn't answer me right away and I thought the line had gone dead.

"I was stunned!" I knew she was crying now—but in ecstasy, not in sorrow. "I think we have to take very good care of her now that we have been given this second chance to have her," she concluded.

As a postscript, we asked Crissie another question which has been bugging us for years: "When does a soul enter the body?"

According to our Guide, the soul of an animal enters its body at birth. In human beings, the soul enters the foetus during its early stages of development, but may come out once in a while if further processing is desired.

We wanted a more specific answer: what month? We were told that it could be anytime within the first two months. But from the moment of conception, a soul is already assigned to the foetus, hence abortion even at the earliest stage of pregnancy is against the laws of karma and reincarnation.

"Would you like to make another exciting discovery?" Crissie teased. Yes, of course.

"Talk to the child in the womb," she advised. Because even if the baby is not yet fully formed, the soul is already intact and can start receiving information, love, and education.

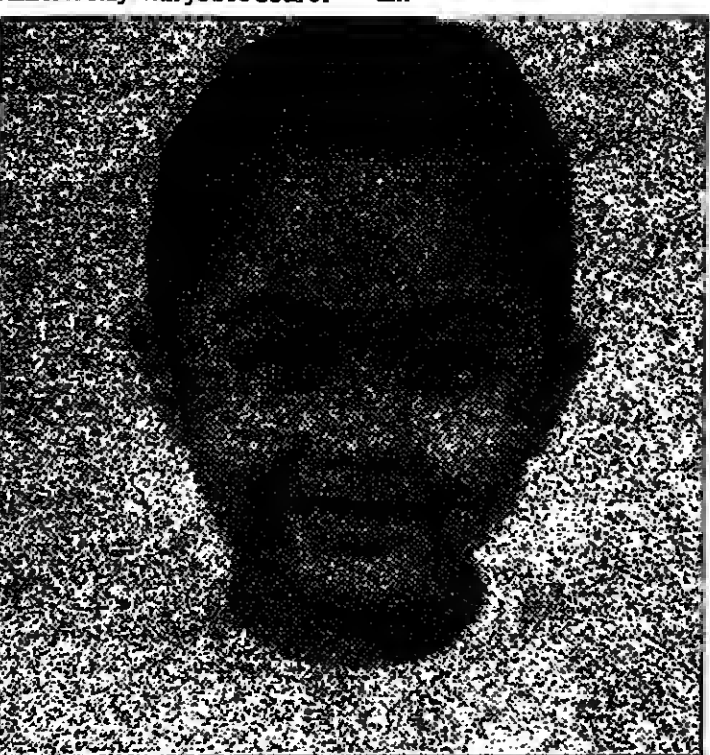
The practice of talking to your baby while it is still in the womb was recently been advised by several world-renowned doctors, and I know a few mother who have tried it. One is Pops Fernandez, who used to sing to Robin while he was still in her tummy, and surrounded herself with music to make sure that her child would grow up to be a musician, if not a musician like his parents. Today, even if he can't

talk too well yet, Robin can already carry a tune.

Maybe this can be one way to prevent a miscarriage: talk to the spirit of the baby in your tummy. Make it feel loved and wanted. Ask it to stay with you so both of

you can contribute to each other's evolution.

Boots is now seeking an audience with Crissie and the other masters, because she has so many questions to ask. Don't we all?



Yana's school picture.

The criminal

ALMOST three weeks after Emil had been freed, I walked into the billiard hall and saw him at his favourite spot, and from the way the muscles were jumping in his jaw, I knew that he was plunged back into the depths of bitterness and melancholy. I didn't have to say anything. Right away, he let me know what was on his mind.

"This is it, boy," he said. "They finally caught up with me. I knew it was gonna happen; it was only a matter of time."

"What, Emil?"

He gave me a twisted smile. "Remember what I said about ex-cons? Well, now you know I was right. Nobody gives a con a break. Nobody."

I stared at him. He'd been working for this accounting firm longer than I remembered, and the news that he was fired came as a surprise and shock. I mumbled something sympathetic to him.

Emil said: "Don't make any mistakes, boy. I know why I got the axe. They gave me a lot of bull about hard times, but I know different. They dropped me because I'm a con, and nobody wants a con on their payroll."

"But, Emil, do they even know about —"

Of course they know. What do you think I am blind or something? As a matter of fact, Emil is pretty blind, without his glasses. "I know the score, boy," he continued. "That's the way all of them are. One false step, one prison record, and click, out you go."

"But maybe it's true, Emil. Maybe times are hard. I've been out of work almost a month —"

He looked at me pityingly. "You're real innocent. And what do you think will happen when I go looking for a job? What do you think they'll say when they know about me?"

I couldn't answer him. I felt so bad that I could hardly talk. After all I didn't know so much about the business world. Maybe it was true.

"I'm sorry, Emil," I said miserably.

"Don't worry about it," Emil said stoically. "I won't have any trouble. There's more than one way to make money without slaving away for some big shot company."

"But I thought you like accounting?"

"There's something I like better. I got plans, kid, big plans. I haven't got 'em all worked out yet, but I'll come up with them, no sweat. Any day now."

I knew what he meant, but I didn't want to say it. There was a caper cooking in Emil's evil brain, a caper that he intended as more than a mental exercise. I could only hope and pray that I wouldn't have to take part in it.

But I was wrong. A week later, when we were both still looking for work, Emil telephoned me to stress the urgency of keeping our date at the billiard hall; a needless reminder. But it was obvious that his appointment had a greater significance than usual. I was immediately thrown into a minor panic; so much that I botched up an interview that afternoon. I was filling out a resume form at a big company looking for messengers, and where the little dotted line said sex, I filled in *Office messenger*. The guy doing the interview looked at me kind of funny, and what do you expect, I didn't get the job.

Emil was reading comics when I entered the billiard hall, and when I sat down, I saw that the comics concealed a meticulous drawing that looked like the kind of floor plan you use to see in front of detective novels. He passed the comics over to me, his eyeballs shifting from side to side, and I peered at the thing without knowing whether he wanted me to read the comics or the diagram. I began to giggle, nervously and Emil punched my arm.

"What's so funny? Can't you see what it is?"

"I don't know," I gulped. To tell you the truth, I was afraid of Emil when he acted like this.

"It's a penthouse apartment," Emil said. "The guy who owns it is loaded. And I mean loaded."

"What guy?"

"His name's Claro Gorgonio, and he's on of my boss's clients. My ex-boss. I used to work on his books once in a while, and sometimes I went up to his apartment to pick up things for the company. I never met him himself, but know he's a rich guy. Quite a layout, huh?"

I looked at the diagram again, but it didn't make any sense to me. No diagram ever did. But I didn't want Emil to know how dumb I was, so I nodded my head.

"Now this here's a private elevator," Emil said, pointing with his finger. "It lets off the foyer of the apartment. But there's also another elevator, a building elevator. The private elevator's self-operating, but the building elevator has a man running it. You got to have a key to work the private elevator, and it takes you right into the apartment. Get it?"

I shook my head.

"What's the matter with you? If you got a key to the private elevator, you don't need a key to the door of the penthouse. All you do is get in the elevator and you're inside the apartment, with a buzzer, otherwise you have to use a key. Now the building operator, he's a guy named Bonnie, and sometimes he leaves his elevator to take a little rest down in the basement. I've been timing him for the last three nights, and it runs about like this."

He pulled out a sheet of paper with a lot of neat numbers in a long column.

"Now do you get the picture? All we gotta do is hang around until Bonnie takes off for his rest, slip the key into the private elevator, and we got it made. There must be thousands of pesos lying around that apartment."

For the first time, I realised that Emil was talking about burglary.

"Wow," I said. "You mean you're gonna rob the place?"

"What else am I talking about, you fool? We won't have any trouble. They don't have any kids or stay-in maids or —"

"We?" I squeaked.

He punched my arm again, and quickly canvassed the people at the other tables. Nobody appeared to be listening, so he went on. I was now sweating with fright. I don't know if I can refuse him this time. But I have to. Robbery, after all, or just the thought of it scares me like death.

From the provinces

LANAO DEL SUR: The candidacy of Sultan Mohammad Mangcop Jimmy Bangcola, who is running for assemblyman in the 2nd district of Lanao del Sur under the NP banner, has been unanimously endorsed by leaders of several socio-civic organisations and tribal groups in Muslim Mindanao autonomous region election.

Sultan Bangcola, former mayor of Butig, Lanao del Sur, was described by youth and civic leaders as "defender of the common man and proponent of social justice." "We welcomed the candidacy of Sultan Jimmy Bangcola as a perfect combination of a professional, politician, and military man who can accelerate the implementation of government programmes and reforms in the four Mindanao Muslim autonomous provinces," the leaders said.

Bangcola has served the four autonomous provinces in different capacities as constabulary officer (retired PC colonel) with outstanding performance having received several awards from the AFP and civic organisations.

MANILA: Local government Secretary Luis T. Santos suspended Quirino Gov. Mariano J. Pimentel from office for 90 days for alleged dishonesty and misconduct.

He was administratively charged before the Department of Local Government (DLG) under Sec 60 of the Local Government Code for alleged abuse of authority, dishonesty, and misconduct by Quirino provincial board members Nestor B. Gatchalian, Pedro L. Bacani, Alfredo Agapito, Leandro C. Cardena, Florencio P. Ruiz, and Vice-Gov. Josie Castillo Co.

In a 14-page decision last Feb 12, it appeared that Pimentel had allegedly falsified and manipulated facts of excerpts of minutes of the provincial board.

QUEZON CITY: Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Maximiano Asuncion issued a warrant for the arrest of movie actress Liza Lorena, two days after she was released from military custody.

Asuncion issued a warrant against Miss Lorena after she failed to appear for arraignment of charges of violation of the Dangerous Drugs Law filed against her. The court likewise ordered the confiscation of P40,000 cash bond she had posted.

Lorena was arrested by Narcotics Command operatives following a raid on her residence at 18 Sorosogan St. West Avenue, QC. Seized from her house were shabu powder and several sticks of dried marijuana cigarettes.

Narcotics probers filed two counts of illegal possession of illegal drugs against Lorena who was committed to the Quezon City Jail.

Right after the filing of the cases, the movie actress posted a P40,000 cash bond for her release from military custody.

Asuncion told reporters that he set the arraignment of the cases against Lorena yesterday but the movie actress failed to appear.

A lawyer representing her told the court that his client was ill. However, he failed to present a medical certificate to support his claim.

Asuncion said the failure of Lorena's counsel to present the needed medical certificate prompted the court to issue a bench warrant for her arrest.

BALAYAN, Batangas: The incumbent members of the board of directors of the Batangas Sugar Central Inc. (BSCI) were unanimously re-elected during the annual stockholders meeting held last Feb 10 in the compound of the sugar central in this town.

Re-elected directors were Soledad L. Dolor, Fe Dolor Serrano, Federico M. Serrano, Danilo L. Dolor, Benjamin S. Martinez, Edna P. Alaraz, Victoria Mangahas, Jose Feliciano, Jose Virata, Victor Pineda Jr and Luis T. Ramos.

Industrialist-banker Soledad Dolor, who presided over the stockholders meeting was re-elected chairperson of the board, former congressman Federico M. Serrano, president; Fe Dolor Serrano, vice-chairperson; and lawyer Ricardo T. Diaz, corporate secretary.

The BSCI, a 100 per cent Filipino-owned company, became a successful venture through the efforts of the Dolor-Serrano clan which started its milling operation during the crop year 1968-69.

Minority stockholders led by lawyers Eduardo S. Martinez and former newspaperman Reynaldo B. Castelo praised the sugar central's new roads and bridges which made the remotest barangays in the province accessible to land transportation.

President Serrano reported in his message to the stockholders that the workers in the central are receiving higher wages than those of some firms, including those situated in Metro Manila.

Other executives who are assisting in the operation of the central are Teofisto Quintas, manager; Arnaldo Borja, chief accountant; Augusto Reyes, field operation manager, and Rodolfo Salangit, factory manager.

BALANGA, Bataan: Four high-speed sewing machines worth \$3,000 (roughly P66,000) were recently donated by the US Peace Corps Volunteer to the Abucay Youth Organisation in Abucay, this province.

PCV director Paul Coverdell turned over the donation to the organisation. One of the machines has an edging device that could enable the user to work on hems and connect embroidery pieces in a record time.

Peace Corps volunteer Robin Masengale, who has been assigned to the local office of the Department of Agriculture, worked for the acquisition of the machines. Technical skills are needed to operate them.

The few workers skilled in the operation of high speed machines could not cope up with the order for ready-to-wear items. Efforts to develop technical skills have been difficult because the available machines have to be repaired most of the time.

The PCV's office for small projects assistance financed similar projects in Thailand, Morocco, Dominican Republic, and Costa Rica.

The turnover of the donation was witnessed by US Peace Corps volunteer director Coverdell, US Peace Corps-Philippines director Jim Lohman, Ms Theresa del Rosario, Ms Robin Masengale, and agriculture department personnel.

BAGUIO CITY: A conciliation meeting between management and labour at the strike-bound Philx Mines in Padcal, Tuba, Benguet resumed on Jan 2, last in Manila.

The negotiations ran into a deadlock during the yuletide.

This developed when former labour secretary Franklin Drilon and lawyer Benny Laguesma, chief of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board (NCMB), failed to resolve the issues between management and labour during its nine-hour negotiation last Dec 27.

More than 6,000 miners of Philx Mines went on strike last Dec 22 when management failed to give them their 16th-month pay which should have been computed under a new rate.

The striking workers are under the umbrella of the National Miners and Allied Workers Union (NMAWU). John Badongon is the president of the Philx union.

Ben Acantillado, NMAWU secretary-general, said that the Philx Mines workers are insisting on their demand for a 16th-month pay computed under the new rate because they said that the company, which is one of the biggest copper-producing mines in the country, can very well afford to give it.

MANILA: A monthly sales record of P99.4 million was chalked up in December by BF Homes Inc., a real estate developer.

The company, which was rehabilitated only in April 1988, has now a total sales revenue of P822 million.

The sales consist mainly of purchases made after the failed coup, which, according to industry sources, is a remarkable development. BF Homes expects more sales in 1990, saying its current inventories are within the reach of the middle-income strata.

A group of foreign contractors currently working on BF Homes Quezon City is negotiating for bigger development projects.

Another group, the China Shanghai Corporation for Foreign, Economic and Technical Co-operation is currently doing a P 96 million turnkey housing contract in Las Pinas and Quezon City. Plans by this entity for medium-rise housing units in BF Paranaque are under way.

In addition, an investment mission from Taiwan will

start negotiations on development projects in Manila on June 10, 1990.

With these developments, complete rehabilitation of BF Homes is expected by 1990, or two-and-a-half years ahead of schedule.

BONGAO, Tawi Tawi: Department of Local Government (DLG) region 9 director Abdulqadir Ibrahim resigned recently from the government to run for regional assemblyman in Tawi-Tawi during the Feb 17 elections in the newly formed Muslim Mindanao autonomous region.

"It was the most painful decision I have made in my life," Ibrahim, a lawyer, said when he filed his certificate of candidacy last week with the Commission on Elections.

Ibrahim added his leaving the DLG was also a financial sacrifice since as a director he was receiving a basic monthly salary of P15,000 and some regular allowances while a regional legislator in the new political set-up will get only P10,000 a month.

STA CRUZ, Laguna: The model barangays of Laguna were presented the "Gawad Huwaring Barangay" awards the other day at the Provincial Cultural Centre here.

The awards highlight the "Magandang Laguna" programme which was launched on Jan 25, 1989 by Gov. Felisimo T. San Luis. The programme includes "Operasyon Linis" in roads, Filipinizing municipal markers, and continuous treeplanting.

Barangay captains are also trained under the programme, San Luis said.

"We need leaders who are development-oriented, not more political leaders," Gov. Felisimo T. San Luis said in a dialogue with the barangay captains and other community leaders.

Aside from the outstanding barangay captain, the province's top youth leader was also cited the other day with "Huwaring Kabataan" awards.

Fifteen government agencies, headed by the provincial government of Laguna, composed the programme's committee. Sen. Edgardo J. Angara was the programme's guest speaker.

SAMPALOC: The gymnasium of the Legarda Elementary School (LES) on J. Fajardo St. in Sampaloc, Manila has been converted into a mini-hospital for a free day-long medical and surgical clinic.

The University of Santo Tomas (UST) medical missions headed by Dr William L. Olalia and Orlando C. Rodriguez of the UST medical student body are slated to treat 3,000 needy patients during the clinic.

UST medical missions committee vice president Michael P. Ramos said 60 practising and student doctors and nurses will provide free services to needy school children, teachers, and residents of neighbouring barangays.

Sponsored by the LES Alumni Association (LE-SAA), led by Dr Ofelia M. Carague, the free clinic is an offshoot of a recent health survey which indicated that a number of school children are malnourished and are suffering from pulmonary diseases.

Carague said free medicines courtesy of the UST missions, the LESAA and the Department of Health will be given to patients.

QUEZON CITY: A young businesswoman and former Sautia flight stewardess could have nothing better for a belated birthday gift than hitting the P6.6 million slot machines jackpot last Jan 25, the biggest in Philippine casino history.

Miss Mylene Tan, 26, single, a resident of Quezon City, won P6,591,020 in the Inter-City Superlink Jackpot prize at Casino Filipino branch in the Manila Pavilion Hotel, said the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., which runs the country's eight casinos.

Miss Tan, who celebrated her birthday Monday, will pay withholding tax of P1.3 million to the Bureau of Internal Revenue for her winnings.

Miss Tan is a Baccarat player who chanced upon and fancied the slot machines. She bought P200 worth tokens and hit the jackpot on the third P5 token inserted in the slot machine.

The Inter-City Link Jackpot was set up in May 1988 and a jackpot of P.5 million was hit in November 1988.

OPM artistes and their peace album

A DOZEN artistes, namely, Celeste Legaspi, Apo Hiking Society, Kuh Ledesma, Gary Valenciano, Jose Mari Chan, Marco Sison, Janet Basco, Sheryl Cruz, Gino Padilla, Samantha Chavez, Camille Victoria and the 14-K, contributed their precious time and talent to produce the album, *Kapayapaan*, gratis at amore.

All proceeds of this particular LP are earmarked for the Artists for Peace Movement, a group of concerned entertainers who offer free shows to soldiers in different army camps and military installations all over the country.

"Kapayapaan" may well be described as a sequel to the 1986 *Handog Ng Pilipino Sa Mundo* album, which the same above-mentioned Filipino artistes, well, almost, recorded to immortalize the peaceful EDSA Revolution.

What apparently prompted the group, to do "Kapayapaan" is the realisation — after having witnessed the Dec 1 coup attempt — that is far from over.

The title track "Kapayapaan," is composed by Jim Paredes and Eddie Munji.

Is it true that Tonton Gutierrez and starlet Monica Herrera are currently seeing a lot of each other?

Tonton and Monica are reportedly seen, often together doing the rounds of disco houses.

Monica was likewise at Tonton's beck and call when the latter was confined in the hospital for over fatigue recently.

I wonder how Monica is helping make things easier for Tonton, whose mom, actress Liza Lorena, was nabbed by narcotics agents for allegedly being a shabu user. I heard Tonton is taking his mom's problem hard.

Manilyn Reynes denies that she and her fellow singer, Ogie Alcasid, are more than friends.

"He is not even courting me," she whimpers.

Manilyn admits, though, that early last year she and Keempee de Leon were steady. They broke off for reasons, she says, which she'd rather not reveal. But she gushes, she enjoyed their relationship while it lasted. "I hope he did, too," Manilyn adds.

Manilyn is currently being dubbed as the country's biggest teen musical idol. Only last Dec, she was presented the Monster Record Award for best performance of 1989 by a Female Pop Artist, OPM (for

Original Filipino Music) by the Monster Radio ROC-93 (composed by Monster disc jockeys Louie O. Divine, Sleazy Al Martinez, Dylan de Vito, Creepy Tom Santana and BJ Alba) for the monster record, *Sayang Na Sayang*.

Of Ogie (Alcasid), his single, *Nandito Ako*, is likewise a mega-hit. In fact, Ogie was himself awarded the title Most Important New Artist of 1989 by the radio station, Magic 89.7 WTM.

Ogie has a new single, *Sa Kanya*, written by Neocolours' vocalist Ito Rapadaas, which is guaranteed to bring Ogie to greater heights as a recording artiste.

Hilda Koronel says she has stopped counting the number of times she has staged a screen comeback. "What is important," she states, "is I am invariably welcomed by the public despite my periodic absences. Perhaps, because the public knows I have good reasons (such as motherhood, failing health, studies, travels abroad, or simply because the offers didn't appeal to her) for going out of circulation."

In *Nagsimula Sa Puso*, referred to as her major comeback (she played a supporting role in *Babangon Ako at Durangin Ka* last year), Hilda plays a school teacher who has an obsessed lover in one of her students, portrayed by Richard Gomez. He is so in love with her, that he hounds her even when she already becomes a mother.

Hilda considers *Nagsimula Sa Puso* her best movie so far. She has the highly regarded tandem of Mel Chionglo and Ricky Lee for director and script-writer respectively.

Supporting Hilda and Richard are Hilda's ex-husband, Jay Ilagan, Cherie Gil, Armda Siguin-reyna and Kristine Garcia, herself on the comeback trail.

Guess what Ricky Davao's most important gift to Jackie Lou Blanco when she marked her birthday last Feb 11?

Answer: Ricky married her before a judge. But the wedding was so hush-hush that their friends came to know about it only at the birthday blowout which Ricky tendered for Jackie Lou at the Bistrot Lorenzo in Greenhills.

The couple have a son, Kenneth Robert, who turned one year old last December.



OPM stars who sang "Kapayapaan": Janet Basco, Bobby Garrovillo, Sheryl Cruz, Kuh Ledesma, Celeste Legaspi, Gino Padilla, Marco Sison, Danny Javier and the 14-K.

EVENTS

Farouk Abdul Aziz fulfils his lifetime dream

By Fathima Ahmed
Arab Times staff

EGYPTIAN Farouk Abdul Aziz was brought up on a diet of movies, music, and arts — the three merging to form a part of his personality.

To Farouk, presenter of Cine Club and director of Kuwait's Cine Club, cinema means a lifetime of thrills, fulfilling his creativity, making him complete.

The 43-year-old bachelor, reclines on his leather chair in his office at the Kuwait Cine Club headquarters in Basra Al Qar as he talks about his romance with cinema. There is a glow in his intense eyes as he subconsciously indulges in theatrical postures to make a point.

When the lights go off in a cinema hall, the actor in him emerges as the real Farouk takes a back seat, and he absorbs, fantasises, becoming a part of celluloid dreams.

"It's been a very, very, very long dream," says Farouk, emphasising each word, as if someone might just miss the point.

He was introduced to cinema at a very early age, maybe one, maybe two. But he has vivid memories of his weekly trips to the cinema with his father. He was three years old. Sitting in the cinema halls, he let his imagination run wild. He would become the hero, the villain, or any other character that caught his fantasy. He wanted to be one of the stars on the screen.

At home, he would play-act the roles he saw on the silver screen. Herecals: "I would stand in front of the mirror and once be the cowboy or the romantic or anything that caught my fancy. His mother was aghast. She thought he has gone nuts. Soon, she came to grips with reality: Farouk just wanted to be the centre of attraction.

At the age of 10, he had already started a cinema club for the neighbourhood kids, who thronged his room to watch the crude film he had collected from the local cinema hall in his hometown in Egypt's Delta region.

Each morning he would walk

into the cinema's editing room and collect the cuttings, bring them home and glue them into eight-minute features. There would be a one-minute clip from an Arabic film followed by a bit from an English film and so on. With a crude projector, given as a present by his father, he was in business, charging a penny for the "filming" in his room.

The walls in his room decorated with life-size posters of his heroes like John Wayne and Randolph Scott. When he was on his own, he felt close to them, and a part of movies. He longed to be one of the faces... an actor, but his inherent timidity prevailed. He recoiled at the prospect of taking an active part in dramatics at school. "I just could not think about going on stage," he recalls.

He was shy, partly, was due to five years schooling in a girls' school, where he had gone for a year at the age of five and stayed for the next five, because the headmistress had fallen in love with him.

"I became introspective and inhibited, and when I was finally transferred to the boys division, I could not cope with the rough world," he said.

He was so accustomed to gentleness, broke into tears each time a fight broke out in the boys' school; or when a teacher raised his voice. "The teacher would scold another student, but I cried anyway," he said. Those were turbulent years for young Farouk; he retreated into a world of his own. His sobbing outbursts lessened, but did not vanish.

When he moved to Cairo and was among the five students selected from 1,500 applicants for the acting course at the Higher Institute for Cinema, it was because he was petrified, and cried.

"As my role demanded an emotional outburst, I was considered highly realistic," he chuckles.

Actor Noor Al Sharif, who is now at the peak of his career, and actress Shams Baroodi, who quit films at the peak of her career, were also selected at that time.

Farouk's destiny has played truant, and his influential uncle pulled strings to have the 16-year-old lad outed from the Institute.

"I was asked to get out by the dean," said Farouk. The dean was Mohammed Kareem, the first Egyptian actor and filmmaker, a fearsome personality who intimidated the boy.

He was down but not out and laid out a strategy revolving around cinema, studying literary and film criticism, set up the first cinema club at Cairo University and the first Egyptian Cinema Club in Cairo.

He branched out into journalism and writing, and became a prolific writer of children's stories and comic strips and later, radio programmes, including The Gates of Cairo and Wind Whistles, a series on Omani navigator Ibn Majed, who travelled to China and India in the 16th century. He also did literary translation for the radio and produced and voiced a series on the life of Scott Fitzgerald.

This experience laid the foundations of what has now developed into a penchant for writing scripts and screenplays.

His first scripts were for "The Film Archives", a cinema show on Cairo TV. Always innovative, he took to analysing the movies he screened on the show and

talked to people about the social, economic, political and religious contents of movies.

Farouk, inadvertently, got explosive footage; his non-conformist attitude made the authorities jittery; they warned him but let the show go on. But a live interview with a Cuban filmmaker Thomas Guthrie Alia abruptly ended his two-year on and off affair with television in Cairo.

The mid-70s was an era of strict censorship. After Alia discussed his film Lucin, covering

the Cuban revolution and the rise of Fidel Castro, the government decided to call it a day for Farouk.

"When you are young, you are an idealist, and make-believe that you can change the world," reflects Farouk. Today, time, and age, has yelped his idealism making him more realistic.

Yet the ideal survives — his romance with cinema. He has produced several documentaries and docudramas, including an 18-hour serial, Silk Road, produced in collaboration with

Japan on ancient trade routes to Asia; and Marhaba, a travelogue about Turkey. He also made a film on Mustafa Azzam, entitled The Making of Lion of the Desert. One of his pet projects was a dialogue with actress Vanessa Redgrave.

A feature film, a cherished project, has been on his mind for more than five years. He envisions how he would make a go at commercial moviemaking, reach the masses and talk about the 1980's drug culture.

"I don't want to be a movie-maker with a message; I want to sell dreams in the context of social realities," he says.

One reality that bothers him is his failure in personal life. "Movies are to blame," he quips, telling us of his scepticism regarding marriage and his failure with women.

"I've been impressed by the screen-goddesses, and, perhaps, I expect too much from women: I go into a relationship expecting everything wonderful; it doesn't work," he explains.

His two marriages ended in divorce. "I was too young, immature and, perhaps, too romantic," he pauses reflectively, and then, complains: "Most women don't share my passion for movies." He admits he can't unravel the "mystery of women."

Now, at 43 he is at that stage of life when he believes he must "take the plunge and settle down." He is waiting for the right girl, with a passion for films, to knock at his door. "It's open, anyone can enter," he said. Until then, he is content with presenting entertaining movies for Kuwait television viewers on Cine Club, which celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Most Cine Club buffs enjoy the movies, but complain about Farouk's monologue about the film. Anticipating the question, he says: "I know, I know, most viewers don't like the commentary in Arabic, but I can't do anything about it." But there is certainly something he can do when he feels down in the dumps: put on a movie classic and lose himself in celluloid dreams.



Vanessa Redgrave talks to Abdul Aziz (1984).



Abdul Aziz interviewing Anthony Quinn (1979).

TELEVISION PROGRAMME

KTV 1

MORNING

- 9.30 Opening and Holy Quran
- 9.40 Sabah Al-Khbar News
- 9.50 Cartoon Serial
- 10.15 Magazine D'Actualite (repetition)
- 10.30 Shuaa Min Al Madhi: Arabic Serial
- 11.45 That's Incredible: Foreign Variety Programme (Final Part)
- 12.25 News Summary
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

EVENING

- 4.00 The Opening and Holy Quran
- 4.15 The World Today via Satellite (Repetition)
- 4.45 Night Chemists, Airlines and Official Advertisements
- 6.00 Waqala Hakeem: Historical Serial
- 7.00 Varieties
- 7.15 The Agricultural Magazine: Local Programme, Prepared and presented by Yaqoub Al Yousfi
- 7.45 Diwanat Shuaa Al Nabat: Local Programme
- 8.30 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News In Arabic
- 9.45 Ila Al Shabb Maa Al Taheya: Arabic Serial (part 12)
- 10.45 Masrafi Fi Hayat Al Akhbar: Arabic late Night Feature, (part 2), starring: Ahmad Mathkar, Layla Ther, Samera Sadiq
- 12.00 News Summary
- 12.05 The World Today via Satellite
- 12.30 Holy Quran and Closedown

KTV 2

- 6.00 Opening announcement and Holy Quran
- 6.10 The New Three Stooges: A cartoon series for children
- 6.30 The Beachcombers: "A Boy & His Dog" "Tommy" finds a good substitute; a

stray dog called "Harry". But the boy's joy is short-lived when a combination of events take place and force Tommy to turn "Harry" over to the society for the prevention of cruelty to animals.

7.00 The Colts: "The Legacy" Attempts are made to preserve the Celtic way of life and culture as well as Celtic minorities, particularly the Welsh, in England.

8.00 New in English

8.30 Midnight Caller: "Fathers, And Sons" Who is responsible for children — the biological father or the persons who raise them? An attempt to answer to this question varies in the Western and American societies.

9.30 Coach Whose Team is it?

10.00 Q.E.D. Steroid Myth: A look at steroids as medicine used by athletes and their effect on their conduct and ability.

10.30 Bestseller: "Cassidy"

12.00 News in Brief

12.15 Magazine D'Actualite

CHINESE

- Al Andalus
- Saigon
- Al Sahiyah
- Cry Freedom
- Al Hamra
- Arabic film
- Drive-in
- Arabic film
- Al Firdous
- Haqqeet
- Fahad Open
- Bhai Ka Dushman Bhai
- Al Jahra
- Ek Duj ke Liye
- Granada
- Agne Path
- Satishkhat
- Mob Busters
- Jeeb
- Adharvam
- Ahmad Drive-in
- Malone

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo-exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Watercolours of Arabia
Recent watercolours by Patricia Mills on exhibition at the studio, the Tareq Rajab Museum, Jabriya, Saturday thru Thursday 9.30 to 12 and 4.30 to 8 pm, from March 6 to 20, 1990. Tel: 5315397 or 5318060.

SOCIAL

Ninth Kuwait gold & jewellery exhibition
NINTH Kuwait gold and jewellery exhibition has started yesterday at the grand ballroom of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel.

Al Rujaib Media International, which organised the same successfully is organising it second time. Ten famous Kuwaiti jewellers are going to display their latest and best designs.

The exhibition will continue up to March 15, 1990. It will be open for public from 9.30 am to 1 pm and from 4.30 to 8 pm.

Jazz concert
THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band" March 13, 14 at 7.30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

ACT auditions
AUDITIONS for ACT's upcoming production of Joe Orton's "Entertaining Mr Sloane" will be held Tuesday, March 13 at 8 pm. The play will be directed by Thomas Zugie and will be performed May 11-13 at the Mousetrap Theatre. Three males of varying ages and mature female are needed. For details, call 5321367 or 5620332.

Kuwait Little Theatre
KUWAIT Little Theatre presents "Oh Clarence", a comedy by John Chapman, adapted from the books of P.G. Wodehouse. Gala Night is on March 19, 1990, at 7.30 pm with other performances on March 20, 21 and 22 at 8.00 pm. Tickets can be booked by phoning 3919759.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group, who have already received rave reviews for their performance of Macbeth in Bahrain, Doha, Muscat and the Emirates, will perform at the Kuwait English School, Salwa on March 21 and 22, 1990 at 8 pm and on March 23, 1990, at 6 pm. The cast includes professional actors and actresses with classical backgrounds, who have appeared at the London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End theatres, television and radio. All seats are numbered, and can be reserved by ringing 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143 or 5731782.

Contact
THE next meeting of Contact, the ladies information group, will be held at Messilah Beach Hotel, 10 am, on Saturday, March 17. Newcomers particularly welcome. For further details Tel. 3720197; 4874513; 5388105.

Seminar
THE seminar at the DAA, on Arabic and European Art in The Light of Zodiacal Symbolism has been postponed. It commenced on Feb 11 and will be given up to March 11, 1990. Morning sessions on Sunday and Tuesday 11.00 am - 12.30 pm or evening session on Sunday and Tuesday 6.00 - 7.30 pm. Registration may be made by phoning the Dar Al Athar Al Islamiyah. Tel: 2430826, 2453259.

Shakespeare's Macbeth

THE London Shakespeare Group who have played in more than 50 countries and who are presently on a tour of Middle East, will present "MACBETH" at the Kuwait English School, Salwa, on 21st, and 22nd March at 8 am and 23rd March, 1990 at 6 pm. The cast includes actors and actresses with classical backgrounds who have appeared at London's prestigious National Theatre, various West End Theatres, Television and Radio. For ticket reservations & further information ring: 5740256/7, 5625316, 5718143, or 5731782.

Jazz Concert
THE Kuwait Happy Times Jazz Orchestra in concert playing Jazz from Miller to Modern. Hear great Jazz by Kuwait's only 15 pieces "Big Band" March 13, 14 at 7.30 pm in the Kuwait English School. Call 5334912 or 5314107 for ticket information.

Bliss n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 5634663.

APPROB

ASSOCIATION of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen (Approb) is holding a seminar to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Pakistan Resolution. Javed Iqbal, the son of the renowned Muslim philosopher and poet, Allama Mohammad Iqbal and a retired justice of Pakistan Supreme Court will preside over the seminar at Sheraton Hotel on March 25th.

Dr. Iqbal will read a research paper on "the struggle to obtain a separate Muslim homeland between Allama Iqbal's Allahabad address of 1930 and the Resolution of Pakistan in 1940." Mrs. Iqbal, a law graduate from the Harvard University and law professor at the University of Punjab, will speak on "the role of Muslim women in society as envisaged by Jinnah and Iqbal." A number of research papers on the Pakistan movement and the ideology of Pakistan will also be read at the seminar to be attended by diplomats and prominent personalities.

Approb will also hold an evening with Dr Iqbal and his wife on March 24th at the residence of Iqbal Latif to acquaint Pakistani children in Kuwait about the ideology of Pakistan. Dr Iqbal will meet the Pakistani community at the Pakistan embassy on March 26. For further details, contact Approb: 2425315 Fax: 5323751.

Holi - Festival of Colours

THE IAC is celebrating the festival of colours to commemorate the coming of Spring on Thurs 22nd March at Fun-aites with a suitable programme. Members and their guests are requested to contact the IAC office (3904817), Sharma (2644863), Raman (3903879), Mathews (4343329), Srivastava (4898162) or Munshi (2423740) for details and passes. Because of limitations, passes are available on first-come-first-serve basis.

Photography classes
PHOTOGRAPHY classes by Anne Eid beginning Saturday, March 17, in Surra. Call: Anne: 2426135.

Bangladesh get-together
A NUMBER of Bangladeshi families will hold a spring get-together at the Rawda Park, Damascus Street on March 23. The day-long programme, which starts at 8 am, will include children's games, ladies and gents games and bingo.

For details, contact telephone 3725312, 4315352, 4715734, or 3713923.

SPORTS

Now at Messilah Beach Hotel Health Club

LIFE Saving Courses with Royal Life Saving Society coach, Grade 1 Examiner will be commencing in March 1990. Ergocycle fitness computer tests and courses now available. Jazzercise/aerobics/staying power/yoga and ballet exercise classes also available. Swimming classes will commence March 1990.

Apollo Fitness Centre at Holiday Inn Kuwait

Julie Dent wants you ... to check out the new look at Holiday Inn and make 1990 the year for a happier, healthier you. Squash and tennis courts with professional coaches available. Separate gym facilities for men and women, including steam, sauna and jacuzzi. Burn off those extra pounds in Julie's exercise classes or swim your way to fitness in our heated pools. Why not try out our 4-lanes bowling alley or simply relax in the lounge with friends. You have tried the rest, now sample the best. Call in now for further details on membership, activities and events ... There is something for everyone. So, whatever your sport, call now on 4742000 ext. 6700 or ext. 6788 for the recreation manager.

HOTELS

Holiday Inn
Al AHMADI Coffee Shop: An ideal venue for that business lunch or a relaxing dinner. Michael and Elaine, our duo sing for you every evening from 8:00 till midnight. Choose from our lavish international buffet and then sit back and enjoy the Holiday Inn's excellent service. Why not treat yourself to our value for money. Breakfast buffet you can always work off those excess calories at the Apollo Fitness Centre.

Al Andalus Supper Club: Spend our Thursday night Arabic style. Savour our exotic Oriental and international food. Relax to the musical entertainment provided by our resident Arabic band. Come and enjoy ... you deserve it. Friday Family Lunch: A great time for the whole family. Prizes and surprises for the children with Disney characters and our amazing magician. A sumptuous Oriental and international buffet complimented by the sounds of our resident band.

Al Salam Hotel

A GRAND Moroccan festival was launched March 10 at the El Bender Coffee Shop of Al Salam Hotel. This festival is being sponsored by the Moroccan embassy and Royal Air Maroc. An exotic display of handicrafts, a detailed view of national highlights, will be followed by an attractive buffet adequately dressed by a Moroccan chef. Besides plenty of prizes and surprises, a return air ticket to Morocco will top the bill of entertainment. The festival will continue until March 16.

Kuwait International Hotel

TURKISH Fashion Show: In addition to traditional cuisine there will be a handicraft and carpet exhibition, folk dances, folk music. Gala buffet dinner with an elaborate fashion show and cultural evening on March 16 and 19. Turkish set menu and a special fashion show on March 17 and 18, in the Falaka Restaurant. Tickets at: 2530000 ext. 4010.

Bella Italia: There is a new experience in Italian style dining every evening at La Palma Restaurant from 12 to March 21. Specially flown in for the occasion, chefs Manuel and Roberto Ruppel will present an unlimited selection of pasta, Mediterranean seafood and desserts. Bellissimo! One guest complimentary for each group of 6 persons. Telephone: 2530000 ext. 8166.

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- Al Hana Pharmacy
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- Al Fahad and Al Ahmadi
- Al Wafa Pharmacy
- Al Dabous Street
- Al Farwaniya
- Al Jazira Pharmacy
- Main Street
- Al Jahra
- Al Ahraj Pharmacy
- Dahal Al Khozaei Street

PRAYERS

- Fajr 4.44 am
- Zohr 11.59
- Asr 3.21 pm
- Maghreb 5.54
- Isha 7.10



Prize distribution

The Bangladesh School, Kuwait, held its annual prize distribution ceremony on Friday. The Bangladesh Ambassador, K.M. Shehabuddin was the chief guest and presented the prizes (top) to the award-winning students. The principal and teachers of the school are seen with the ambassador and political counsellor in the picture above.

BBC world service highlights

The Green Debates

A RANGE of programmes devoted to environmental issues are being broadcast during March. Among them are four debates which reflect current anxieties about the state of our planet. Opening the series about the Ecologist magazine argues against the motion that "commercial forestry must play a part in any plan to conserve the rainforest. Proposing the motion is Dr. Timothy Cambridge University and among the floor speakers is Mrs De Freitas of the Brazilian mining company Companhia de Vale Rio Doce.

Sunday, March 11 at 17:01

A world of waste

THE majority of waste discarded by today's modern society is disposable. But what happens to the cans, the plastic containers and many other kinds of waste that are thrown away? As the world's population passes the five billion mark we are running out of space for people and their refuse. In two 30-minute programmes Jonathan Head tries to

find out how the experts are dealing with the problem and how we can cut down on rubbish. Monday, March 12 at 09:30 and 13:01

The music makers

THE lives and careers of six widely differing personalities come under scrutiny in this new series of programmes with Jeremy Siepmann. He begins with one of the giants of jazz, Thomas "Fats" Waller. Composer of such successes such as "Ain't Misbehavin'" he brought jazz into the lives of millions with his unique blend of art and humour.

Friday, March 16 at 13:30 and Monday, March 12 at 20:15

Children of the ice

IN a series of six short talks scientist John Gribbin describes how changes in the earth's climate might have influenced the evolution and development of human life. This week he offers an explanation for the extinction of the dinosaurs, a demise which allowed our mammal ancestors to flourish.

Wednesday, March 14 at 15:15 and Thursday, March 15 at 09:30 and 22:30

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Market watch

Trade volume surges

Companies continue to declare dividends

THE Alshall index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday, Mar 7, 1990 an average of 39.19 points with an increase of 0.45 point — 1.16 per cent — over last week's average of Wednesday, Feb 28, 1990. The Alshall index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 64.48 points with a decrease of 0.45 points — 0.69 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shal weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 26.55 million shares at a daily average of 5.31 million shares with an increase of 9 per cent over the previous week's daily average of 4.87 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 6.08 million shares at a daily average of 1.216 million shares with an increase of 185 per cent over last week's daily average of 0.427 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was KD9.08 million at a daily average of KD1.82 million, a decrease of 50 per cent from last week's daily average of KD3.63 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was KD0.235 million at a daily average of KD0.047 million, an increase of 213 per cent over last week's daily average of KD0.015 million.

For the Kuwaiti shares market, the banking sector came first at 47 per cent of total trading against 90.5 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 38 per cent, followed by the Gulf Bank at 19 per cent and Al Ahli Bank at 15 per cent.

The investment sector came second at 30 in which Kuwait International Investment Company had the lead at 51 per cent, followed by Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 18 per cent and National Investment Company at 13 per cent.

The Real Estate Sector came third at 15 per cent in which Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 52 per cent followed by United Realty Company at 31 per cent and Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company at 17 per cent. As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, The Arabian General Investment Company (SHUA) had the lead at 59 per cent, followed by Bahrain International Bank at 34 per cent and Umm-Al-Quain Cement Company at 7 per cent.

The market gave signs of slight activity which was reflected on four of the six indices and was more pronounced in the non-Kuwaiti market.

The concentration in trading in the banking sector's shares which was observed during the past few weeks decreased, this was reflected on the value of traded shares which decreased due to the fact that shares of the banking sector have a higher price average than other sectors.

Listed companies continue to declare dividend distributions. Five companies have declared distributions last week, four of which are listed in the Kuwaiti shares market and one in the non-Kuwaiti shares market. Three of the Kuwaiti companies declared cash dividends only while one declared both cash and stock dividends.

The percentage of companies that declared dividends in the Kuwaiti market reached 63.6 per cent of total listed companies which 57.1 per cent declared cash dividends while 42.9 per cent declared both cash and stock dividends. The latter is considered to be high in spite that it fell compared to previous weeks. Only two companies have declared dividend distributions in the non-Kuwaiti shares market which constitutes 33.3 per cent of total listed companies in that market.

Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Banking Sector

The National Bk

175.75

177.61

7.61

The Gulf Bk

The Comm. Bk

Al Ahli Bk

Bk of Kt & ME

Kuwait R. Est. Bk

Burgan Bk

Kt Finance House

Sector Index

Inv. Sector

Kuwait Inv. Co.

Kt. Int. Inv. Co.

IFA

Comm. Facilities

National Inv.

Kt. Inv. Proj.

Coast Inv. & Dev.

Sector Index

Real Est. Sec.

Kt. Real Est.

Utd. Realty

Nat. Real Est.

Pearl of Kt.

Sector Index

Ind. Sector

Kt. Cmt. Co.

Ref. Ind.

Gulf Cables

Kt. Pharm.

Sector Index

Services Sector

Kt. Cmptr. Co.

Kt. Cinema Co.

Pub. W'house Co.

Kt. Mnt. M. Co.

M. Tele. Syst.

Sector Index

Food Sector

L. Trad. & Transp.

Utd. Fisheries

Kt. Utd. Poultry

Kt. Food Co.

Sector Index

Overall Index

Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

Wed. 07/03/90

28/02/90

Change points

First G. Bk.

Bah. Int. Bk.

Bah. M.E. Bk.

A. Gen. Inv. (Sbna)

Limm. Al Q. Cmt.

G. Med. Proj.

Total Index

Base period 31/12/1983

All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

Jordanian premier for Riyadh

AMMAN, Jordan, March 10, (AP): Prime Minister Mudar Badran left for Saudi Arabia today for talks with Saudi officials on regional development and Jordan's economic problems.

A well-informed Jordanian official said Badran "was expected to resume talks with Saudi officials on Jordan's troubled economy and the kingdom's serious financial crisis."

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Badran will also brief Saudis on King Hussein's recent efforts to halt Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories.

On Feb 15, Hussein visited the Saudi kingdom and an official announcement then reported that Hussein and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd "discussed economic and financial ties."

Later that month, Hussein also toured Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Iraq.

The Jordanian official said Hussein's tour to the Gulf was aimed at "securing stable aid from our brethren there to help this country overcome its serious financial troubles."

Jordan built up an \$8.3 billion foreign debt which King Hussein blamed on the shortfall of aid from oil-rich Gulf states.

The official Petra News Agency said Badran was carrying a letter to King Fahd from King Hussein.

Petra did not disclose the contents of the letter, but the Jordanian official said it "dealt with King Hussein's talks with European leaders on Arab efforts to reach a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

Hussein is in the United Kingdom for discussions with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and Arab fears that they will be settled in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. He held similar talks with French President Francois Mitterrand last week in Paris.

Jordan is especially worried because it fears massive Jewish settlement in the occupied territories could lead Israel to push West Bank Palestinians into its territory, triggering political and economic upheaval.



A share broker ponders in trading as he puts his hands against his forehead, watching price movements at the Tokyo Stock Exchange as shares rose 600.54 points to 54,291.43 on Friday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bonds dip sharply

NEW YORK, March 10, (Reuters): Surprisingly strong employment figures for February led to sharp losses in the bond market on Friday, undermining stocks.

The dollar ended with slender gains in slow trading. The strong employment figures suggested the economy is stronger than investors had believed, backing the view that the Federal Reserve is unlikely to cut interest rates anytime soon to boost economic growth.

The 10-year Treasury note fell 15 1/2 cents to 107 1/2, while the 30-year Treasury bond fell 1/4 point to 114 1/4. The yield on the 10-year note rose to 8.62 per cent from 8.57 per cent on Thursday. As bond prices fell, their yields rose.

The bond fell nearly a point during the session, but recovered from its lows. The pound lost nearly 2.5 cents amid anxiety over recent demonstrations against a new tax imposed by City Halls across the country.

The conservative government and of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is at an all-time low as inflation rises and interest rates remain high.

would remain firm, bond prices fell. The benchmark 30-year Treasury bond fell three quarters of a point, or 57.50 per \$1,000 face amount, raising its yield to 8.62 per cent on Thursday. As bond prices fell, their yields rose. The bond fell nearly a point during the session, but recovered from its lows. The pound lost nearly 2.5 cents amid anxiety over recent demonstrations against a new tax imposed by City Halls across the country. The conservative government and of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is at an all-time low as inflation rises and interest rates remain high.

Sheikh Ali arrives in Budapest on Monday

Kuwait to step up ties

VIENNA, March 10, (Kuna): Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa arrives in Budapest Monday on an official four-day visit for talks with senior Hungarian officials on means of expanding bilateral co-operation in oil and energy fields.

Kuwait's ambassador to Austria and non-resident ambassador to Hungary Abdul Hamid Al Awadhi told Kuna here today that Sheikh Ali will also discuss joint co-operation in the field of oil industry.

He underlined that Kuwait maintained traditional relations with Hungary but noted that ongoing political openness and economic reforms in that East European nation could serve as an incentive for expanding co-operation in various important investment sectors especially in oil and energy which occupy a major portion in Hungarian industrial infrastructure.

Awadhi said that Hungary, in its capacity as an oil importing country, provides opportunities for bilateral co-operation in that vital sector in view of Kuwait's renowned experience in petrochemicals and marketing oil products.

The ambassador expressed the hope that Hungary could serve as a spring board for boosting Kuwaiti presence in the oil and energy sector in East European markets in view of that country's role in the area in addition to its distinctive geographic position as a bridge between East and West Europe.

The Kuwaiti ambassador noted that political and economic experts believe that Hungary has the necessary basic industrial infrastructure to ensure success of its economic reforms and the transition from the former government-planning to the open market policies.

Sheikh Ali's visit follows the conclusion of an agreement between the two countries to avoid double taxation in addition to protection and encouragement of investments during the visit of Hungarian Foreign Trade Minister Tamas Beck to Kuwait a few months ago.

Meanwhile, Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Hisham Nazir of Saudi Arabia yesterday held out the possibility of further "downstream" joint ventures in the United States as well as in Europe and the Far East.

Nazir spoke at a business conference on Saudi-US relations, sponsored by New York University in co-operation with the US-Arab Chamber of Commerce.

In November 1988, Saudi Arabia bought a 50 per cent interest in three American refineries owned by Texaco Inc., and set up a joint venture with Texaco under the name Star Enterprise.

"There are others to follow Star," Nazir said. Star imported virtually all of its 539 million barrels of oil per day from Saudi Arabia for its refining and distribution, or downstream operations.

Nazir said Saudi Arabia also looks at the US strategic petroleum reserve as a possible outlet for its oil.



Arab energy ties vital

KUWAIT, March 10, (Opecna): Abdul Aziz Al Watarani (above) deputy secretary general of the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), has once again called for effective co-operation among Arab countries in the oil and energy sector.

Al Watarani, a former Iraqi Oil Minister, said Arab oil had not yet been able to play its true role in the economic development of the Arab world. He urged effective co-operation among oil producing countries on a regional level.

He said as far as possible, Arab countries should co-ordinate their efforts through specialised organisations, citing Opec as an example.

Al Watarani was also quoted as having made critical references to the OECD-sponsored, Paris-based International Energy Agency (IEA), which he recalled was set up to neutralise the Arab oil role.

UK energy minister in Oman for talks

MUSCAT, Oman, March 10, (AP): British Energy Minister Peter Morrison conferred today with Ahmed Saeed Al Shanfar, the Sultanate's Minister of Oil and Minerals, at the start of a three-day visit to Oman that will also take him to the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

The official Oman News Agency said the two ministers exchanged views on several matters related to energy.

Morrison is accompanied by 75 industrialists representing more than 50 oil-industry companies on a tour to expand co-operation with the Gulf countries, among the richest oil producers in the world.

The United Kingdom is one of the biggest oil producers outside the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries 13-nation, and among the largest exporters of goods to the Gulf.

It boasts world-wide sales of goods and services related to oil technology amounting to about \$3 billion a year.

Morrison's talks in the three Gulf countries are expected to touch on means of stabilising world oil prices.

Oman is not a member of Opec but it closely co-ordinates policy with the organisation.

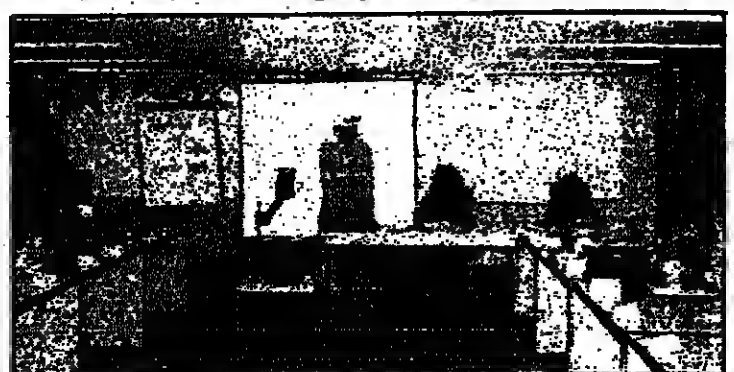
Bank conducts training programme

WITHIN the framework of its personnel training and development programme, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait recently organised two training courses for selected groups of employees.

The first course which dealt with credit analysis was attended by 22 middle management personnel from the credit area. The Bank's Training Centre in co-operation with the Corporate Banking Division prepared a programme for this three-week course.

There were three major objectives for the course — firstly to refresh trainees' general credit knowledge, asset conversion cycle, cash flow analysis and forecasts; secondly to enable them to identify the basic issues and factors in order to reach a common understanding of unified credit proposal presentation for sound credit decisions; and thirdly to improve credit appraisal process in the Commercial Bank of Kuwait.

The programme which consisted of three phases tackled various issues such as qualitative and quantitative analysis and credit risk analysis. It also included practical training on credit proposal presentation. The course concluded on 21st of February 1990 with an open discussion between the trainees and some members of the bank's senior management.



Ahmed Al Hamlan, assistant general manager, Treasury Division, making the opening speech.



A scene from the course

The second course which was offered by the Treasury Division in co-ordination with the Training Centre focussed on the rapid changes in the local and international money markets and the impact of political and economic changes on exchange rate fluctuations. It also dealt with, selling of the bank's products and services in a highly competitive market.

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Toyota joins the league of luxury motoring

At a recent dinner reception hosted by Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel, a new level of luxury automobile, manufactured by Toyota Motor Corporation of Japan, was launched into the market.

In their opening speeches, Mr. Naser Mohamed Al Sayer, Chairman, and Mr. Dennis A. Stuckey, Managing Director and Chief Executive of Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est., clearly stated a firm belief that with the introduction of the "Lexus LS400", Toyota has moved into the ranks of the "giants" in luxury motoring. Indeed, with a waiting list in Japan of over a year, it is not difficult to imagine that the Lexus heralds a new breed in innovation, style and finish.

The setting of the launch was both lavish and unique. After a brief visual presentation, guests were pleasantly surprised to find the doors to the Sheikh Ballroom swing open and a Lexus LS400 driven onto superb staging fashioned in the shape of a question mark.

There was, however, no question in the minds of the guests as to whether the Lexus LS400 has attained its product philosophy, which is to offer uncompromised automotive engineering, design, luxury and quality in a sophisticated new class of high-performance, luxury automobile.

Not surprisingly, it took 6 years, 2,300 technicians, 1,400 engineers, 450 prototypes, 4.3 million test kilometres and 300 patent applications to produce one of the finest automobiles in the market today. The Lexus LS400 not only features mechanical excellence

and precision, but has been designed with the driver's and passenger's needs very much in the forefront.

This new 4-door luxury sedan is powered by a 4.0 litre V8 four-cylinder engine with weight-saving aluminium cylinder heads and block, plus four camshafts, four valves per cylinder and computer controlled fuel injection.

While the speed and efficiency of 260 horsepower, coupled with a very low coefficient of drag, the lowest among top-class luxury cars, give birth to first-class motoring performance, the driver of the Lexus LS400 enjoys the highest standard of low interior noise level, and can feel confident in the security of large-diameter ventilated disc brakes and electronic anti-lock braking system.

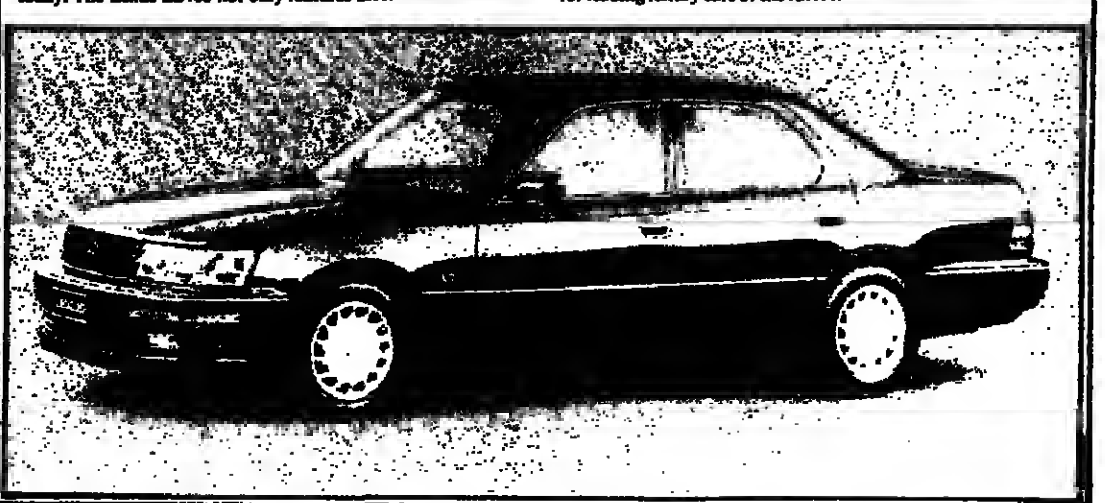
To emphasise the painstaking design that went into achieving safety, the LS400's rack-and-pinion steering is variable power-assisted according to car speed, and the tyres of the LS400 are specially developed in line with its performance technology.

The spacious interior of the Lexus LS400 very clearly speaks of elegance. An attentive eye to detail has ensured a subtle harmonization of colour, texture and durability.

Because the Lexus philosophy combines beauty and function: power windows, power lumbar support adjustment, tilt and telescopic steering wheel, seven speaker audio system, ten-way power front seats and a powerful automatic climate-control system represent just some of the standard equipment featured in this quality car.

In spite of the fact that Toyota has provided in the Lexus LS400, state-of-the-art technology, Mohamed Naser Al Sayer & Sons Est. have taken one step further by developing a package of unparalleled after-sales benefits. Certainly, a buyer of an automobile in this league deserves the very best maintenance and servicing facilities.

Without a shadow of a doubt, the Lexus LS400 has set the trend for leading luxury cars of the future.



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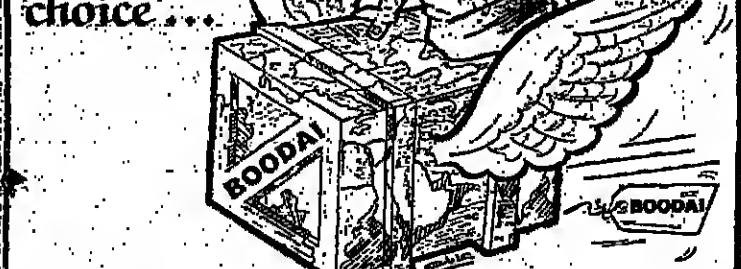
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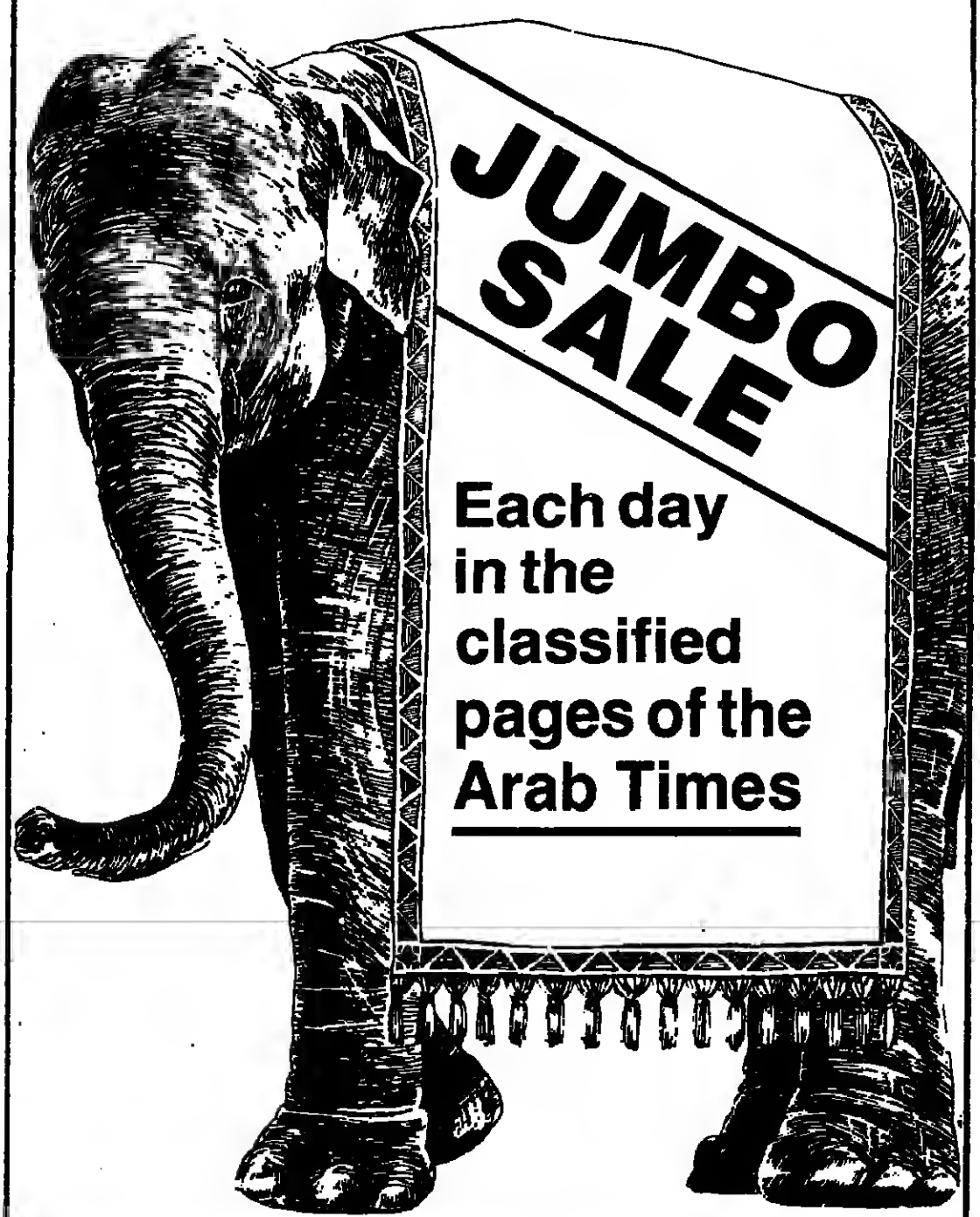
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ARAB TIMES NEWS IS OUR BUSINESS

SPORTS

KPBC, KRP and Trico triumph

Overland brush aside Kay

OVERLAND Transport Company, KRP, KPBC and Trico International scored contrasting victories as the Kuwait Pingy Basketball League (KPBL) games continued at the Kheifan High School Gym on Friday.

Overland Transport Co. vs. Kay & Associates

Overland Transport Co. registered their first win with a 86-69 decision over an undermanned Kay & Associates 5. Kay & Associates who had only 7 players found, it took all the way as "Billy Ray" Navarro (Overland's main man) went unopposed. He finished with 26 game-high points and was ably supported by Martinez 15, Pineda 13, Ramalla 8, Borsalan and Villa 6 apiece. Kay & Associates playing minus team captain Alex Morales, Jojo Medrano, Teddy Lonoza and Albert Orozco was paced by Joselito "Atoy" Kai 21, Velayo "The Durable" had 14, Alveidia 13, Evangelists 12 and Marin 8, points.

The Mahuhay Best Player of the Game award was given for the second time around to Mr. "Billy Ray" — "Hulk Hogan" Navarro for successfully leading his team to their 17 points win over Kay & Associates.

KRP vs. Nissan Al Bahrain KRP-Kuwait Regency Palace found out that Nissan Al Bahrain was a hard nut to crack as they escaped with a hairline victory 85-84 over the latter.



Dr. Dauday Tago, minister counselor/consul general, and Bert Martin, labour attaché, of the Philippine Embassy watch the KPBL games.

Half-time score stood at 44-44 as Nissan's combination of Abajero, De Los Reyes, Aquino, Detera and Espinosa matched the heroics of KRP's speedy Bolito & Osorio. The second half was no different than the first 20 minutes of the halfgame. It was close all throughout with neither team taking a clear advantage over the other. With less than 3 minutes left in regulation time Nissan took the driver's seat 79-78 but this was short-lived as Speedy Bolito rose to the occasion and scored 3 consecutive baskets and a charity point to outsteady the Nissan 5.

With the score at 85-81 and time down to 38 seconds, Nissan's Espinosa converted on a 3 point attempt to bring the game to a cardiac finish. In the ensuing play Andal, KRP's Richard

Gomez was fouled & the KRP 5 made the mistake of taking the one on one free throw instead of waving the situation. Andal missed his first try and Nissan was able to recover the ball. KRP was lucky enough to win the ballgame as time expired with Nissan unable to make a clear attempt at their basket. Speedy Bolito led his team 26 followed by Matudio and Nardo 12 each, Osorio 11, Reodique 10, Sone 5 and Jumadiao 4. Nissan was paced by Abajero 26, Detera and Espinosa 14 a piece and De Log Reyes 10 points. Speedy Bolito was named the Mahuhay Best Player of the Game.

Third game: KPBC vs KDD KPBC closed out its Elimination Round schedules with a 10 points win over KDD 5, final

score was 100-90. In their 4th win in as many outings KPBC played listlessly against an undermanned opponent. The game was characterised by errors, as both teams displayed an array of fancy dribbling, blind passes and trick shots to the dismay of the basketball fans. When the final horn sounded, KPBC shot 100 and KDD managed to reach 90.

Top scorers for the winners were Serrano "The Foreigner" 24, De La Cruz 23, Arganoza 14, the Macho Man from Adam-Castro 13, The Carnation Baby-Domingo 10 and The Alaska Baby-Lito Manuel 8. KDD was led by Gutierrez 26, Lingany 20, Pizarro 18 and Ramirez 14.

The Mahuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded for the 2nd time around to the Foreigner "Len Serrano" for his steady shooting all throughout the contest.

Trico International vs Al Ghanim Freight and Travel

The last game of the day was the most crucial one as both teams are going all out for a win that could advance them to the Championship Round. Trico International out-duelled Al Ghanim 91-83 to keep their championship bid alive. Trico's combination of Reyes, Atienza, Menes, Calaycay and Bahierrra played well together against the Al Ghanim 5 of Velasco, Garcia, Dayao, Ragudon, & Galicia and led at half-time 47-40.

In the next 20 minutes of play,

basketball fans were treated to some serious action, as both teams battled to secure that most desired win that could advance them to the next round. When the smoke settled down Trico was on top by 8 points (91-83) and they were led by Reyes 23, Atienza 20, Menes 18, Bahierrra 14, Calaycay 9 and Vargas 5 points respectively. Al Ghanim in its valiant losing effort was led by Garcia 21, Dayao 19, Velasco 17 and Dequilla 8 points.

The Mahuhay Best Player of the Game was awarded to Mat Reyes for his steady performance during the entire ballgame, top scoring with a game high of 23 points.

The "KPBL" winds up its Elimination Round schedules this coming Friday the March 16, 1990 with a series of very crucial matches that would determine who will join KPBC in the 4-team Single Round Robin Championship which starts on March 23, 1990. The schedules are as follows:

9:00 Al Ghanim vs. Nissan Al Bahrain
10:30 EEI vs. Trico
12:00 KAI vs. KDD
1:30 KHC-Bayan vs. Overland Transport Co.
3:00 EEI vs. KRP
4:30 KDD vs. Overland (if required)

"KPBL" — "Pizza Italia" All Star Game

In a related development the KPBL Secretariat announced that in co-operation with Pizza Italia/Arab Food Services Co. an All Star game Green-Red will be held on March 23, 1990, 5 pm at the Kheifan High School Gym. This is being held to give special tribute to the players who have shown more than one shining moments in the on-going KPBL 1st Conference Basketball League. This was confirmed by the general manager of Pizza Italia Chawki E. Barakat who added that the following prizes shall be given away on the said match:

Champions trophy.
1st runner-up trophy.
Gold medals for players of the champion team.
Silver medals for players of 1st runner-up, plaques for both coaches.
Most Valuable Player: KD25.

Watch out for more All Star details this coming Wednesday and Thursday.



Klimova and Ponomarenko wave to the crowd after collecting their gold medal. (Reuter wirephoto) Paul and Isabelle Duchesnay acknowledge the applause of the huge crowd. (Reuter wirephoto)

Klimova, Ponomarenko win

HALIFAX, Canada, March 10, (UPI) Soviet Marina Klimova and Sergei Ponomarenko held on to win their second straight World Ice Dancing Championship last night, despite a heart-rending, event-winning free dance finale by Canadian expatriots Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay of France.

Another Soviet team, 1989 silver medalists Maia Usova and Alexander Zhulin, settled for the bronze medal, and Americans Susan Wynne and Joseph Druar were fourth — up one spot from last year.

Klimova and Ponomarenko took their gold medal on the basis of their first-place finishes in the compulsory dances and the original set pattern dances. They were scored second-best in the free dance with their lovely and technically difficult interpretation of music from "My Fair Lady," but the ranking from the programme was in some ways meaningless. They were simply the best of all the rest.

The sibling Duchesnays, who have bewildered judges and bent rules forcing a new, dramatic and interpretive style into the conservative sport during the past two years, were in a class by themselves.

Some members of the audience burst into tears at the end of their programme, which portrayed the struggles of two oppressed South Americans for freedom. The standing ovation from the sold-out crowd at the Halifax Metro Centre lasted more than three minutes.

The Duchesnays were scored sixth best when they introduced their wildly exotic jungle dance at the 1988 Olympics and they moved up to take the bronze medal at the 1989 Paris worlds.

But the judges could resist the new look no longer last night. Five of the nine gave the Duchesnays perfect 6.0 scores for artistic expression, and though their technical marks were somewhat lower, the dramatic couple took the first-place ordinal for the event by a 5-4 vote.

Earlier Friday, a mental error by Jill Trenary in the short programme event made the female event a four-way battle rather than the expected duel between the Americans and defending titlist Midori Ito of Japan.

Trenary doubled out of a necessary triple jump and was scored fifth in the round. That finish, coupled with Ito's first place, put both Soviet Natalia Lebedeva and American Holly Cook in position to win the gold medal during the women's finals this evening.



Ponomarenko and Klimova during the long programme. (Reuter wirephoto)



Isabelle and Paul in action in the championships on Friday. (Reuter wirephoto)

Prosecutors to let off Strawberry

LOS ANGELES, March 10, (Reuter) New York Mets temperamental outfielder Darryl Strawberry will not have to face charges over an incident six weeks ago in which he threatened his wife with a gun, prosecutors said yesterday.

City attorney James Hahn said charges would not be filed mainly because Strawberry was undergoing treatment for alcoholism, which he said was "at the root of the family's problems."

Strawberry, who has spent the last month in an alcohol rehabilitation clinic in Los Angeles, was arrested on January 26 at this home in the Los Angeles suburb of Encino after his wife called the police.

Lisa Strawberry told police her husband had slapped her and she had retaliated by hitting him with an iron rod. He had then taken out a gun and threatened her with it.

Although his wife showed no signs of injury Strawberry, who was jailed briefly before posting \$12,000 bail, suffered bruises on his ribcage and wrist, police said.

Lisa Strawberry later signed a statement saying she did want to press charges.

City prosecutors, who could have filed criminal charges, met the 27-year-old outfielder for an hour last week when he told them frankly about the incident and about his dependency on alcohol. Hahn told a news briefing.

"He has now completed the initial step of his recovery programme. Therefore we do not intend to file misdemeanor spousal battery charges," he said.

Under an agreement with prosecutors, Strawberry will submit written progress reports every two weeks for the next three months. He will continue to undergo alcohol counselling.

The Strawberry's marriage has been stormy from the start. Shortly after their wedding on January 5, 1987, Lisa filed assault charges accusing Strawberry of breaking her nose. She later filed for separation.

They were reconciled after a year, reuniting the baseball star with his two children, Darryl and Diamond.

'Buster tops now, Ali's best for all time'

HUNTINGTON, West Virginia, March 10, (AP) Who's greatest is debatable, that you can see, it's either Buster Douglas, or Muhammad Ali.

The answer's found here, in this little rhyme. Buster's tops for now, Ali's best for all time.

Three years ago James "Buster" Douglas, a little-known boxer, was an Ali fan and posed in Atlanta for a picture with his idol during one of the longtime champ's personal appearances.

Yesterday, a month after knocking out Mike Tyson to become heavyweight champion of the world, Douglas shared centre stage with Ali, whose love of rhyme is legendary in the boxing world.

Booked

"To sit down with Muhammad Ali was something I've been waiting for," Douglas said. "I have been truly blessed."

John Johnson, Douglas' manager, is from

West Virginia and arranged for Douglas to visit this town despite hundreds of other requests for personal appearances. Ali, already booked for an appearance at a Golden Gloves youth boxing tournament here, was the reason.

"What happened here is what it's all about. We went to this man's suite upstairs, the door opened and he hugged him. Part of our dream was to have this man love and respect us," Johnson said, looking at Ali.

Ali, slowed by Parkinson's disease but ever-quick on wit, painted his own scenario of winning back the heavyweight crown, even at age 48.

Douglas would beat Holyfield, former champion George Foreman would beat Douglas and Ali would beat Foreman. Ali said.

Douglas, 29, and others laughed until Ali put up his dukes and said: "He's surprised, but it's my avenue. I can still move."

At a press conference afterward, both

convened a genuine meeting of a mutual-admiration society.

"It's an honour being with him because what he did shows that he is a true champion. He took a great fighter, a knockout artist, and beat him to show that he was the real knockout artist," Ali said of Douglas.

Problem

He also remembered meeting Douglas in 1987.

"He was wearing blue jeans and red shirt, and he had a snotty nose," he said.

Douglas acknowledge his apparel and a sinus problem. He returned Ali's compliment.

"It's an honour to be alongside this man who I have idolized my entire career," he said.

Johnson and Ali pointed to Douglas when asked who was the greatest boxer today.

"He's the greatest now," Ali said. "I'm the greatest of all time."

Berger fastest in opening US Grand Prix practice

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 10, (Reuter) Austrian Gerhard Berger marked his first competitive appearance in a McLaren yesterday by surviving a fierce late challenge from team-mate Ayrton Senna to claim provisional pole position for tomorrow's US Grand Prix motor race.

Berger, overhauling the excellent times set earlier by Italian Pierluigi Martini in a Minardi, clocked a best time of one minute and 28.664 seconds on the demanding Phoenix street circuit.

His time was nearly 1.5 seconds inside Senna's pole time for the track last June.

Senna, who appeared to force Berger off the circuit and into a run-off area in the closing minutes, finished fifth-quickest at the end of a crash-marred session behind three Pirelli-clad runners sandwiched between the two McLarens, each running on Goodyear tyres.

Martini, fellow-Italian Andrea de Cesaris in a Dallara and Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Tyrrell were second, third and fourth-quickest after a day dominated by the interruptions caused by spins and crashes.

After the morning free session was halted four times, it was a relief that the afternoon's qualifying session was halted only once — when Frenchman



Prost (left) leaves Senna around a turn during the practice. (Reuter wirephoto)

Phillipe Alliot went off in his Ligier — and that no one was injured.

Both Ferrari drivers, world champion Alain Prost of France and Nigel Mansell of Britain, endured disappointments.

Mansell spent much of the day in the pits with various engine

and gearbox problems while Prost was never able to compete on the pace until the final minutes of the afternoon session.

Brazilian Nelson Piquet, making his first appearance in a Benetton, finished sixth-quickest.

Mansell, who had arrived in Phoenix full of optimism after a

busy off-season of testing the new Ferrari, was bitterly disappointed with his time.

Asked what caused him to spend so much time in the pits, he said: "Everything — the engines, the gearbox, the lot."

On a cool and cloudy day, the temperatures were more than 20

degrees centigrade cooler than they had been here last year and this clearly contributed to the improved lap times set by the leaders.

Martini set the early quickest time and was only briefly overtaken by Alesi before Berger clocked his fast lap with five minutes of the session remaining.

Berger said: "I got a good clean lap — not a super quick one. On this sort of circuit it's often the case that you go quicker if you drive more precisely. The chassis set-up is not perfect, nearly there."

Senna said: "This morning, we had some electrical problems with the race car, so we changed the cockpit computer, but the engine was still misfiring slightly this afternoon."

"I came in and changed a few things, but then the engine began making a mechanical noise and lost power. Chassis set-up is not right or wrong — we will improve it tomorrow."

Though immensely popular world-wide, Formula One motor racing has yet to catch fire in Phoenix.

Promoters yesterday refused to divulge attendance figures and although one official called ticket sales brisk, nearly empty grandstands indicated that Grand Prix racing has so far failed to capture the imagination of Phoenix sports fans.

"We've been working like crazy to make it an event," spokeswoman Diane Lane said of the US stop on the 16-race calendar.

Phoenix is hosting the Grand Prix to sparse attendance for the second year after several successful years in Detroit.

Fan enthusiasm was high for the event in Detroit, which often drew more than 200,000 spectators over three days. But drivers detested the dangerous street circuit and when city officials failed to promise changes demanded by International Motor Sport Federation officials, the event was moved to the desert southwest.

Phoenix has a contract to stage the race through 1993 and city spokesman Mark Hughes said there was no intention of abandoning the event.

Former three times world drivers' champion Jackie Stewart confirmed yesterday that he was involved in a minor road accident in Phoenix earlier this week.

Stewart, in Phoenix for tomorrow's motor race, said he collided with another car as he changed lanes on Wednesday.

The two cars touched bumpers without causing any serious damage and nobody was hurt.

Stewart admitted: "It was my fault. I flagged the other driver down and apologised."

Raiders may move back to Oakland

OAKLAND, California, March 10, (AP) The owner of the NFL's Raiders is keeping this city in mind about whether he'll move the team back here, where it started, from Los Angeles.

Davis, faced with a put-up-or-shut-up deadline imposed by local government officials, did neither yesterday. He called two hours before the deadline and asked to postpone his decision until Monday.

Despite the latest delay in the 18-month-long negotiations, officials viewed it as anything but a setback.

"My own gut feeling is I'm inclined to think they're coming," mayor Lionel Wilson said.

The city council and Alameda County supervisors are scheduled to vote Monday night on whether to approve Oakland's \$402-million offer to lure the NFL team back from Los Angeles. The Raiders left after the 1981 season in a dispute over stadium.

There is growing concern among local officials and citizens that residents might end up footing the bill for extra stadium renovation costs or subsidies if the Raiders' attendance isn't high enough.

A majority of supervisors are reported to be leaning in favour of the offer, but there is no clear consensus on the nine-member council.

Whether or not the deal wins approval, the Raiders likely will remain in Los Angeles for at least one more season while the Oakland Coliseum is renovated and luxury boxes are added to meet Davis' demands.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cricket Test

GEORGETOWN, March 10. (Reuters) Play was abandoned without a ball being bowled on the first day of the second cricket Test between West Indies and England today after torrential rain had flooded the ground. By the scheduled start of play rain was still falling with some parts of the Bourda Ground under 20 centimetres of water.

Lee triumphs

TAJEON CITY, South Korea, March 10. (Reuters) South Korean Lee Yul-Woo outpointed holder Jesus Rojas of Venezuela to win the World Boxing Association (WBA) light flyweight title today. It was the Venezuelan's first defence of the title he won by beating Colombia's Fidel Bassa on points on Sept 30 last year and only his second defeat in 21 professional fights.

NBA games

NEW YORK, March 10. (Reuters) Results of National Basketball Association (NBA) games played today:

Atlanta 107 Seattle 87
Washington 115 Boston 108
Phoenix 134 Indiana 130
Detroit 99 New Jersey 95
Portland 104 Philadelphia 100
Utah 108 Milwaukee 100
LA Lakers 131 Golden State 115

Ban commuted

GENEVA, March 10. (Reuters) French club Racing Strasbourg's three-season ban from European soccer competitions for non-payment of a transfer fee was commuted on appeal to a 150,000 Swiss francs (\$100,000) fine today.

African Cup

ANNABA, Algeria, March 10. (Reuters) World Cup finalists Cameroon salvaged a degree of pride from their otherwise disappointing performance in the African Nations Cup by beating Kenya 2-0 in the last Group B match yesterday. The victory came after Cameroon, who face holders Argentina, the Soviet Union and Romania in the first round of the World Cup finals in Italy, had already been eliminated from the eight-nation African competition.

W. German soccer

BONN, March 10. (Reuters) West German First Division soccer results today:

Karlsruhe 2 W. Bremen 1
Eintracht F 1 Kaiserslautern 1
Hamburg SV 0 Bayern Munich 3
Bochum 2 Bayer U 1
VFB Stuttgart 4 Fortuna D 0
Cologne 1 St. Pauli 1
Waldhof M 1 Bay. L 1

Konchellah out

COSFORD, England, March 10. (AP) Billy Konchellah of Kenya, the reigning world champion at 800 metres outdoors, was eliminated in the heats of the 800 metres last night at the British National Indoor Track and Field Championships.

NHL games

NEW YORK, March 10. (Reuters) Results of National Hockey League (NHL) games played yesterday:

Washington C4 Quebec N 3
Winnipeg Jets 7 Edmonton O 3
Vancouver C 4 Calgary F 4

Winning lead

MELBOURNE, Australia, March 10. (AP) Olympic champion Australia rallied to defeat South Korea 2-1 yesterday and take a winning lead in a five-Test women's field hockey series between the two teams.

5-day match

BULAWAYO, Zimbabwe, March 10. (Reuters) England A were 216 for two in their first innings at the close of the first day of their second five-day match against Zimbabwe today.

Tour opener

Townsville, Australia, March 10. (Reuters) Soviet second row forward Oleg Saepa was sent off today as his team opened their six-match Australian rugby union tour with a 22-21 win over Queensland Country.

Jansher overcomes court trouble to reach semifinals

SALZBURG, Austria, March 10. (Reuters) World champion Jansher Khan, on the verge of quitting after the first game because of a slippery court, went on to beat Chris Robertson of Australia in a gruelling two-hour quarter-final at the Austrian Open yesterday.

The Pakistani made a series of

unforced errors during the first game, which Robertson won 15-13. Jansher said later that he thought about retiring at that stage.

"I made most of the mistakes because I was very scared of the floor which was very slippery. After a discussion with Greg Hutchings, my manager, I decided to carry on for half

of the next game and see if I could play without doing so much running."

Jansher still looked far from comfortable as he went 6-9 down in the second game but he gained the upper hand as Robertson had problems with the treacherous underfoot conditions and fell twice against the walls of the court.

"Those two falls certainly had me scared," Robertson said. "But I never considered pulling out and simply changed my tactics so that I would not chase around quite as much as I usually do."

Both competitors continued to play with unusual restraint, Jansher winning the third game and Robertson the

fourth.

However, the Australian was close to exhaustion in the deciding game and Jansher was able to clinch a 13-15 10-15 10-15 15-3 win after an hour and 58 minutes.

Tournament organiser Markus Gabel said the flooring would be replaced for today's semifinals.

In today's semifinals Jansher will play Rodney Martin, a 12-15 15-7 15-10 15-8 winner over fellow Australian Rodney Eyles and world number one Jahangir Khan will play Chris Dittmar.

Both Jahangir and Dittmar won their quarterfinals in straight games over Australians Brett Martin and Tristan Nanarow respectively.

Oldham stun Everton in FA Cup

Aston Villa move to top of table

LONDON, March 10. (Reuters) Second Division Oldham knocked last year's finalists Everton out of the Football Association (FA) Cup at the third attempt today as Aston Villa took over at the top of the English First Division.

But Cambridge failed to become the first Fourth Division team to make the semifinals when they lost 1-0 at home to First Division Crystal Palace in their Cup quarterfinal.

Oldham, who reached the League Cup final in midweek, continued their quest for a Wembley double by bouncing back from behind to level 1-1 at full time and then winning the fifth round second replay with a penalty in extra time.

Villa's 2-0 win at home to struggling Luton was their first win for three matches and sent them two points clear of Cup holders Liverpool, who play Queens Park Rangers in an FA Cup quarterfinal tomorrow.

Manchester United play the other quarterfinal away to Second Division Sheffield United, also tomorrow.

Cambridge, whose players were promised a large bottle of whisky as a victory bonus, kept their hopes alive until the 77th minute at home to First Division Palace.

Midfielder Geoff Thomas broke the deadlock to give Palace their first FA Cup semifinal place since 1976.

Champions Arsenal drew 1-1 after going a goal down to relegation-threatened Manchester City to stay third in the League, nine points behind Villa.

But Nottingham Forest, thrashed 3-0 by a resurgent Arsenal in midweek, were again beaten 4-



Spurs' Chris Hutton (left) fends off Charlton's Scott Minto. (Reuters wirephoto)

2 at home by Midlands rivals Coventry, while England striker Gary Lineker scored his 20th goal of the season in Tottenham's 3-0 defeat of Charlton.

Results

English Football Association (FA) Cup quarterfinals: Cambridge 0, Crystal Palace 1.

Playing Sunday: Sheffield United v Manchester United, Queen's Park Rangers v Liverpool.

Fifth round replay: Oldham 2, Everton 1 (after extra time).

English Division One

Aston Villa 2 Luton 0

Chelsea 1 Norwich 0

Man. City 1 Arsenal 1

Notts Forest 2 Coventry 4

Southampton 2 Derby 1

(Postponed from Feb 3)

Tottenham 3 Charlton 0

Postponed: Crystal Palace v Derby, Liverpool v Wimbledon, Millwall v Everton, Sheffield Wednesday v Manchester United, Southampton v Queen's Park Rangers.

English Division Two

Blackburn 2 West Brom. 1

Barnsley 1 Stoke 0

Hull 1 Middlesbrough 0

Ipswich 2 Brighton 1

Oxford 2 Leeds 4

Plymouth 0 Swindon 3

Port Vale 2 Bourmouthe 1

Sunderland 2 Leicester 2

Watford 0 Newcastle 0

West Ham 2 Portsmouth 1

Wolves 1 Barnsley 1

Postponed: Oldham v Sheffield United

Scottish Premier Division

Celtic 1 Hearts 1

Dundee 1 Dunfermline 0

Hibernian 3 Aberdeen 2

Motherwell 0 Dundee United 1

St Mirren v Rangers postponed.

English Division Three

Blackpool 2 Preston 2

Bolton 3 Notts County 0

Brentford 0 Crewe 2

Huddersfield 0 Fulham 1

Northampton 1 Cardiff 1

Rotherham 1 Bury 3

Shrewsbury 0 Bristol City 1

Swansea 1 Mansfield 0

Walsall 0 Birmingham 1

Playing Sunday: Bristol Rovers v Leyton Orient.

Played Friday

Cheltenham 1 Reading 1

Tranmere 2 Wigan 0

English Division Four

Aldershot 2 Doncaster 1

Chesham 2 Hereford 1

Grimsby 1 Exeter 0

Halifax 1 Scarborough 2

Hartlepool 2 Rochdale 1

Lineker scored his 20th goal of the season.

Postponed: Carlisle v Cambridge, Peterborough v Lincoln.

Played Friday

Southend 2 Gillingham 0

Stockport 0 Wrexham 2

Scottish Division One

Albion 2 St Johnstone 5

Forfar 2 Dundee United 1

Raith 2 Morton 1

Postponed: Alloa v Falkirk, Ayr v Clyde, Clydebank v Meadowbank, Partick v Hamilton.

Scottish Division Two

Berwick 2 East Fife 0

Kilmarnock 3 Queen's Park 0

Montrose 1 Stenhousemuir 1

Queen of S 2 Brechin 2

Postponed: Cowdenbeath v Stirling, Dunfermline v Arbroath, East Stirling v Strathern.

Standings

English and Scottish football league tables after today's matches (tabular).

played, won, drawn, lost, goals for, against, points.

English Division One

Aston Villa 28 17 4 7 45 26 55

Liverpool 27 15 8 4 51 26 53

Arsenal 28 14 5 9 42 28 47

Notts Forest 28 12 7 9 41 32 43

Chelsea 29 11 10 8 45 41 43

Coventry 28 13 4 11 32 37 43

Southampton 28 11 9 8 35 47 42

Tottenham 29 12 6 11 42 36 42

Norwich 28 10 9 9 30 31 39

Derby 27 11 5 11 34 35 38

Wimbledon 27 9 11 7 34 29 38

Everton 26 11 5 10 35 34 38

QPR 26 9 5 6 30 29 36

Sheff Wed 26 8 9 9 34 37 35

Crystal P 27 9 6 12 32 51 33

Manchester U 27 8 7 12 34 37 31

Luton 29 6 11 12 32 45 29

Manchester C 28 7 8 13 29 43 29

Millwall 28 7 8 13 28 44 28

Charlton 29 5 8 16 23 41 23

English Division Two

Leeds 34 18 10 6 60 30 64

Swindon 34 17 9 8 65 44 60

Sheff U 31 16 11 4 49 32 59

Newcastle 33 14 12 7 59 40 54

Wolves 34 14 11 9 54 43 54

Oldham 31 13 12 9 47 36 51

Blackburn 33 12 14 7 38 49 50

Sunderland 32 12 13 8 51 50 49

Ipswich 32 12 11 9 56 47 47

Leicester 32 10 10 10 47 39 46

West Ham 31 13 10 8 44 39 46

Port Vale 33 13 7 13 46 46 46

Oxford 33 13 7 13 46 46 46

Watford 33 13 7 13 46 46 46

Bournemouth 31 13 10 13 48 53 43

Leicester 33 11 10 12 46 57 43

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